

Roshni

JANUARY - MARCH 2015



ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Lalita Balakrishnan-a grand farewell by AIWC, 10th April, on the eve of her departure for Chennai



Dr Kumkum Narain and Mrs Geeta Sinha in historic Kosvo town, nestling in a volcanic crater after COP 20 conference in Lima, Peru



Radha and Krishna (Vocational college students) attend AIWC Holi celebration



Smt Meenakshimanimuthu Amma, President, AIWC Bodinayakanur, honoured for social work by Collector, Theni Dist., Tamilnadu



Medical camp and Uniforms for children organised by AIWC, Ville Parle, Mumbai



AIWC Moradabad celebrates International Women's Day



20th Anniversary celebration of Apoorva Women's Association, Chennai
Donation of Tri-cycles to physically challenged women



Awareness Camp at AIWC Mandi, H.P.

ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

AIWC has Consultative Status with -
UNITED NATIONS
Permanent Representatives
Ms. Sudha Acharya
Ms. Seema Upleker
(ECOSOC) (UNICEF)
AIWC has affiliation with -
International Alliance of Women
Pan Pacific and S.E.A. Women's Association
CONGO
Global Water Partnership
World Renewable Energy Network

AIWC has 500+ Branches and 1,00,000+ Members
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Contents

From the Editor's Pen	2
Poverty and Women - Mrs. Veena Kohli	3
Secretary General's Report	7
Republic Day Awards to Our Brave Children	12
P residential Address	13
My Experiences at C.S.W. 59-New York - Mrs. Kuljit Kaur	17
25th Anniversary Celebrations of Ujjwal	20
- Yuthika Mishra and Chitra Sarkar	
Super-Cop Rescues Children - Roshni Drolia	20
Learning Lessons from Life	21
CSW59-New York-Asumming Up - Amareshwari Morla	20
Celebrating International Women's Day - Mythily Jagannathan	24
C.S.W.59-Beijing+20 - Dr. Vijeylakshmi	26
Why An Unequal World for Women - Dr. Roshan Ara	27
CSW59-and After - Dr. Manju Kak	29
Musing On a Women - oriented UN Meet - Smt. Bhavatarini	34
The Way There - Riya Berry	36
Branch Activities	37
माचो पीचो एवं कॉस्को - कुमकुम नारायण	42
रसोई के चमत्कार - पूर्णिमा भार्गव	44
ये तुमने क्या किया - गोमती नायर	46
क्या आप जानते हैं?	46
शिक्षा - उषा यादव	47
मेरी प्रेरणा का स्रोत बेटियाँ - वर्षा	48

From the Editor's Pen

Dear Sisters,

Greetings and Best Wishes for a happy, prosperous 2015.

This Roshni has extended frontiers beyond the New Year, because of AIWCs involvement in important events and activities.

The 87th Annual session of AIWC was held in the heritage city Vadodhara, on February 18th-20th, 2015. The conference derived added momentum by the presence of the Rajmata and Maharani of Vadodhara whose efforts have empowered women through education and training. AIWC was involved on the world stage, when invited to the UN CSW 59 held from 9th to 19th March. The conference reviewed 20 years progress after the Beijing Conference, a landmark in womens empowerment throughout the world.

Activities, events including AIWCs event on Women and Poverty, and interesting side-lights on the conference are given by our delegates.

We thank contributors to our special issue on "Golden Childhood", this will be our next (April- June) issue.

Roshni brings you other news, reviews, articles, and a round-up of branch activities around the country.

Collage cover design of Roshni is by Chitra Sarkar.

Happy reading!

Mythily Jagannathan

Poverty and Women - Economic Empowerment of Women

- Mrs. Veena Kohli, President, AIWC

Presentation on 12th March, 2015. Side event at CCUN, United Nations Plaza, New York

Poverty has affected the lives of millions but the most suffering section of society is the women and children. Because of constraints and discrimination, women have to bear the maximum brunt of poverty. They cannot afford basic needs like food, clothes, house, education and health-care. Even whatever they can afford is of poor quality. Poverty for them is insecurity, powerlessness and susceptibility to violence and often living without access to clean water and sanitation.

Gender economist, E. Boserup explains that women were not always in disadvantageous position. How they reached the position inferior to that of men has been a long process. During the different stages of economic development, their status deteriorated.

Economic development may have resulted in

economic growth but has not resulted in human development, especially since half of the population i. e women seem to have been bypassed in this process. Thus, being poor means that they are resource less, unhealthy, exploited and more vulnerable to sexual harassment.

According to the 2014 edition of the world bank report, the global target for reducing poverty by half was achieved five years ahead of schedule and the number of poor people – those living on less than \$1.25 a day - had halved to 18 percent in 2010 from 36 percent of the population in 1990. Even if the current rate of the progress is to be maintained, around 1 billion people will still live in extreme poverty by 2015. In some developing countries, we continue to see a wide gap between the rich and the



poor and between those who can and who cannot access opportunities. Other challenges such as inequality, non effective governance, economic shocks, food insecurity and climate change threaten to undermine the progress made.

According to United Nation's Millennium Development Goal programme, 270 million or 21.9% people out of 1.2 billion of Indians lived below poverty line of \$1.25 in 2011-2012. According to Tendulkar Poverty Line, during the year 2011-12, India had 270 million persons below poverty line as compared to 407 million in 2004-05. These figures indicate that there is a reduction of 137 million persons over the seven year period.

As per the UNDP report 2014, India ranks 135 in Human Development Index. The number of poor is now estimated at 250 million, of which 200 million reside in rural India. The report states that none of the BRICS countries have made place in the high human development category and India remains at the bottom with lowest HDI value among them. "India is the lowest performing country among the BRICS nations in all categories of the HDI with the exception of life expectancy, which is lower in South Africa as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic," the report says.

AIWC's Initiatives

Education and empowerment of women have been at the core of All India Women's Conference's agenda since its inception in 1927. AIWC has been striving incessantly to promote literacy and skill training to empower women, for the last 86 years, through our wide network of 500 branches spread all over the country. Over 1.5 lakh voluntary members work with selfless dedication for the cause of women in various fields. AIWC's programs in education, health and eradication of poverty are aimed at helping 50% of our population i.e. women. Empowerment of women is an essential ingredient in

protecting women's right and has to be looked at from a holistic perspective. Proper education, economic self sufficiency, self confidence and courage are needed on the part of the women with a matching response from men based on mutual respect. HE for SHE, A UN program, where men are a support system to their women, and gender equality becomes a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development.

AIWC has initiated programs like socio-economic, skill centered literacy, health awareness, legal awareness, environment friendly income generating activities, leadership training programs particularly for women Panchayat members, adoption of villages, rural/urban community resource centres which have brought quite encouraging results. To quote a few—our projects on solar drying of food products for income generation, sanitary napkin making unit, spice grinding units, dairy farming, provisional stores, medicinal herbs units etc have been very successful and given economic independence to women in their local area. The results are visible as the living standard has improved and women have emerged as empowered women who are making decisions for their lives. Around 50,000 women and girls have benefited from these programs. Since 1995, we have introduced new ventures like renewable energy, environment friendly alternate vocations for women bidi workers (rolling of tobacco leaves), Herbal gardening for women as income generation activity etc.

The following suggestions would go a long way in bringing women out of the morass of poverty:

1. Giving women equal access to land and other assets

Due to son preference culture and second class family member status of women throughout world, they do not enjoy entitlement rights of land and other

family property. They are always treated as a liability by their parents. Therefore, it becomes mandatory to change the traditional tactics of making women landless and resource less individuals by giving them equal access to assets and resources at par with men so that they can gain control over family as well as community resources, increase their bargaining power and enjoy equal say in decision making.

2. Making visible the care economy

It is imperative to measure the output from the Care economy in terms of time and in terms of money so that women's work will gain economic recognition and monetary edge by including it in national accounting system. Although, some recent legislations have supported this view that women's household work as well as child care should be measured in monetary terms and husbands should be asked to pay for their wives services but yet it also waits for enforcement.

3. Involving women in economic decision making

Economic policy making is the domain of politicians who usually happen to be mostly men. At various decision-making levels, gender imbalances can be distinguished in communities even at the earliest stage of development. Women are underrepresented in decision making in govt., business sector especially at senior levels. The irony is that women are not even involved in decisions related to their life like consent at the time of the marriage, and the decision regarding reproductive matters like how many children she should have or how to go for family planning practices? . Therefore, the demand of time is that women being the implementers of the decisions of men need to be involved in framing policies and plans of the society

so that they can be able to address their issues in a much better way.

4. Changing gender based division of labour

A universal trend of dividing the household work according to gender has been acting as the main obstacle in the way of women's suppression and economic backwardness. All the household drudgery from cooking to crop cultivation, harvesting and rare and care of pet animals in homes is performed by women in Indian society as a whole. Women remain busy with performing household tasks and in addition to this perform the most sacred job of motherhood which leaves no scope for her to work in any productive activity. On the other hand, men have kept themselves away from domestic obligations and care of children which are full time jobs at home and they only participate in economic activities which get in cash income (revenue) and thus enjoy command in household as well as community affairs. Therefore, this uneven and unequal gender based division of labour needs to be changed and men also have to come forward and share the the burden of domestic duties so that women can participate in economic activities.

5. Access to credit and finance

Women face a major constraint in availing the facility of credit. Establishing their small scale enterprises to earn their own livelihood and to become self reliant turns into an unfulfilled dream due to lack of financial availability. They can't avail loans from banks unlike their male counterparts because they don't have assets and other property in their name that could be kept as mortgage with the bank. Therefore, it is the utmost responsibility of the government and other financial institutions to come to their rescue and facilitate women by providing them easy access to credit facilities and grant subsidies to encourage them to come forward.

6. Gender base distortions

There is discrimination against women workers in the labour market whereby women performing the same work as their male counterparts are paid less. The minimum wages ACT 1948 is not enforced due to lack of knowledge and information. Thus, gender based price distortions lead to false economics. Economic policy makers aiming to improve overall economic efficiency need to count and measure women's work equally with men's so that their contribution does not remain hidden and invisible. Policy makers should focus and work for creating job opportunities for women and only then their problems of economic dependence, poverty and resource lessness can be addressed properly in a broader perspective.

7. Gender based institutional biases

Women's work days are longer than men's in general. Men monopolize the use of new technology and women have to work with traditional labour intensive techniques. Thus, change from traditional to modern methods of production in any sector tends to enhance men's prestige at the expense of women's by widening the gap in their levels of knowledge and training. Thus, need of the hour is to make these institutions bias free so that women can enter the fields so far denied to them for lack of training and exposure.

8. Gender budgeting

Gender budgeting will help govt and civil society to assess the extent to which gender issues are being addressed through budgetary allocations and expenditures so that women may not be only the beneficiaries of benefits of development but equal participants in the process of development.

9. Gender studies

Gender Studies need to be promoted in academic curriculum from the initial stages of schooling so that

both boys as well as girls will develop sympathy and respect for each other. There is a need to change the male psyche and sensitize men to understand the role and relevance of their opposite gender in their lives. Gender education will help in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.

10. Political participation

Women need to be invited in the political domain of societies world over by giving them not only one third representation but fifty percent of their share as per the proportion of population. It is an admitted fact that unless women make their entry into top decision making bodies of the nation, they can't reshape their destiny.

How different would our nation be if the ruling party added the concept of economic exploitation of women and girls in their manifesto? The progress of civilization depends on the continuous search for truth and knowledge and that the remedy lies in more liberties, not their suppression, that equal opportunity available to all and all form of gender discrimination ended.

11. Strong social security system

Provision of a robust social security system for women and girls is the need of the hour. Social services - which include universal access to health care and education, full employment and social protection are required for sustainable and resilient human development. Also there has to be a strong social security system especially for women from private and unorganized sector to provide them economic and health security after a certain age in private and unorganized sector.

I conclude with a quote of Mahatama Gandhi "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." If we limit our greed and share more with the underprivileged, we can definitely contribute for creating a harmonious society.

87th AIWC Annual Conference

18th – 20th February, 2015, Vadodara, Gujarat

Smt. Asha Gambhir - Secretary General's Report

Namaste!

Happy 2015 to all of you. May we all be blessed with good health, happiness and energy to carry on the task undertaken.

Respected Patrons, President, Treasurer, all the standing committee members and delegates who have come from all over the country for the Annual Conference to this great historic city “BARODA”, situated on the banks of the river Vishwamitri (whose name is derived from the great saint Rishi Vishwamitra). The city was once called Chandravati, after having got its name changed thrice to Viravati, the abode of the brave, and then Vadpatra. From Vadpatra it finally got its present name Baroda or Vadodara.

Baroda likes to be known as a 'Sanskari Nagari'. So here we are in one of the prominent Sanskari city of India to deliberate and find solutions to the problems our society is plagued with, while retaining our “Sanskars” and moving ahead with modern times.

To begin with a word in appreciation for our host branch and its President, Mrs. Lakshmi Upadhyay one of our youngest member, and her team. I have often heard her proudly announce her age, brimming with energy and living life to the full. If I am not wrong she actually grabbed this opportunity of holding the annual conference and take it up as a challenge defying all myths about age. I am sure each of us will enjoy every moment of the three days we are going to spend here.

At the half yearly meeting in Moradabad we had focused on the need for toilets for women in the rural areas. Soon after that the Govt. at the centre had also emphasized on this need and urged the states and corporates to construct toilets. In the meantime

we had received several requests from some of our branches for this. Now it becomes easy for the branches to approach the Govt. agencies for funding as this has become a national agenda. We have already spoken to the Sulabh International who have agreed to collaborate by providing technical knowhow.

Let me take this opportunity of congratulating each one of you present here for the commendable work you are doing at your level. We are all committed to working towards a better society, where women can live a life of dignity, free from any kind of violence feeling secure and proud of our existence. Let us not forget we form half the world's population and have it in us to change the destiny of the world and in the process our own destiny too. We are the home makers, nurturing the future generation of the country and our contribution cannot be undermined nor valued in terms of money.

All this can be achieved only if we enjoy good health, economic empowerment and equal status in society. These are the three key issues AIWC has always been working for. Taking this effort forward more than 91 health awareness camps and 31 anemia checks with a follow up have been sanctioned to the branches during the past six months. Skill training programs have been given to the branches throughout the country for the girls to acquire skills whereby they can earn a livelihood for themselves.

In addition to this, two new programs Udaan & Celebrating My Family were introduced in the year 2014, besides the Integrated & Skill Development program which has been going on and implemented. Putting together all the three programs is development with a holistic approach. I would urge all members and branches when working in an area,

to focus on complete development. So that when you leave the village or slum or whatever area, you leave behind a model where there is no illiteracy, a healthy village and the women and young girls are economically empowered. Celebrating a complete family, this should be the aim of the branches.

The management has taken the initiative of getting the zonal office more involved and accountable. The Zonal office will henceforth have a more active role in the implementation and monitoring of the projects sanctioned by head office. They are to be the strength of AIWC. They will be responsible for reaching out in the rurals and also formulating the data, finally submitting it to the head office for records.

Seminars and lectures are part of the head office curriculum. Topics vary from Women's issues, Environment and Sustainable Development.

AIWC is very active at the National & International level and participates in all current events. Our members have been attending the Climate Change COP meetings for the past 4 years and has been co-opted in their committees. Because of which funding has been received from WECF & WEDO for conducting Advocacy & mitigation program in our branches.

One of our members who is an expert in sexual harassment had been invited to Paris to take part in a conference and present her paper.

Profile of our work : Health Camp 91, Violence Against Women 29, Environment 20, Gender Sensitization 15, Consumer Awareness 10, Waste-Water & Sanitation 9, Communal Harmony 5, Disaster Mgt. 2, Others 3, Total 194 awareness programs

Maximum no. of programmes (Great Job)

- Gulmohar Mahila Mandal- 9
- Human Touch Foundation, Noida – 6
- Nathencode Vanitha Samithi – 5

Excellent Work

- Health Camp- GEMM Odisha Branch, Allahabad , Bhagini Samaj, Mangalore , Kalwan Mahila Mandal , Darjeeling , Kurseong , Moradabad, Sharadha Mahila Mandal, Amritsar Branch , Dehradun, Gandhi Peace Center, Vanitha Vidya Samithi.
- Legal Awareness – Kalimpong branch, Patan Branch, Shradha Mahila Mandal,
- Environment- Meerut Branch, Haldwani- Nanital Branch, Raijang Branch.
- Consumer awareness- AIWC Chowringee Branch
- Waste, water & Sanitation- Katnalu Branch (K.R.Nagar)
- Communal harmony- Saharanpur, Manipur State Branch, Haridwar , Bhopal Branch
- Disaster Mgt. - WEDA Imphal.

Chart showing total number of beneficiaries Jan-Dec 2014.

Health Camps 11,620, Violence against women 2228, Environment 1711, Gender Sensitization 1345, Consumer Awareness 758, Waste, Water and Sanitation 587, Communal Harmony 498, Disaster Mgt. 200, Others 177

Commendable work done by the branches -

Integrated Literacy And Skill Development-

- Moradabad branch –managing 3 centres within the funds of one centre
- Muzzafarnagar branch-Giving maximum income generation opportunities with follow-up
- K. R. Nagar branch-Running the program effectively with good response for literacy and skill training
- Samyuktha- innovative skill of paper jewellery linked with literacy

Anemia free society-

- Chowringhee constituent branch-maximum program outreach
- Haridwar branch, Indore branch, Sanjeevani (well conducted program with illustrated material)
- Bhagini Samaj, K.R. Nagar branch

Enhancing life Skills of Adolescents-

- Trivendrum branch- maximum no. of programs
- Saharanpur, Katnal, Anaswara, Ujjawal, Gandhi NariKalyan Samithi-Use of very good interactive methods and beautifully conducting the program

Rural/Urban Resource Centre -

Samyuktha for conducting the program effectively as per the objectives of the program and taking maximum community support

The year 2014 was declared as the year of the Girl Child. Branches were sanctioned awareness programs on this subject. They were specially told to include men and middle aged women in their programs, as these two age groups were very instrumental in taking decision. States chosen for this program are the ones which have the lowest sex ratio.

This year too we will continue emphasizing on the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' as it is the dire need of the hour. Along with this we will add the environment slogan which again needs to be given special attention and more awareness needs to be created.

Now I will talk about the permanent projects of the head office and the events that took place during the last six months –

Permanent Departmental Activities:-

Estate & Aga Khan Hall – The Aga Khan Hall as you are all aware is one of the main sources of income for AIWC. Unfortunately during the month of July there was a minor accident when part of the ceiling of Aga Khan hall fell, fortunately nobody was hurt and we were spared what could have been a major mishap. The hall had to be closed down for 3 months from

September – November, 2014. Experts were invited for their opinion. Tenders were floated, quotations invited and after proper scrutiny the work was allotted to one D D Infraprojects. The hall is now completely redone and back in business. The audio video hall has also got a new look.

Hostel & Mess – the utility rooms of all the floors have been renovated. Inmates are allowed to prepare tea, coffee and light refreshments for themselves. Common rooms at all the floors are equipped with T.V Sets, Jimmying equipment and comfortable sitting arrangement. We are happy to report that all the six Guest rooms in Sarojini Hostel have been renovated with all the new fittings in the bathrooms for the comfort of our visiting Members. In K.D. And L.M. Hostel we have 30 single seater rooms with attached bathrooms and independent balconies. Old mattresses have been replaced where ever it was required. Regular meetings are held with Wardens and Cleaning Staff to maintain hygiene. Drinking water quality is checked and water storage tanks are cleaned at regular intervals. New admissions are done as and when the vacancies occur. Most of the occupants who have been over staying in the Hostel have been persuaded to vacate and couple of them are vacating the hostel. Our Website [www.aiwchostel.org.in] is working properly. We are getting admission enquires through our website. Our Wardens have been trained in data entry and to maintain their office work through computer.

Future plans for the Hostel—Renovation of the bathrooms of Sarojini Hostel and strengthening or reconstruction of the balconies of KD and LM Hostel.

Bapnu Ghar – one of the AIWC's most successful and prestigious project. Focus is on rehabilitation of women, restoring their self confidence and assisting them in taking decisions. A new warden has been appointed after the earlier one resigned.

Out of the 218 cases registered 198 cases were solved. At present there are 18 inmates in the Bapnu Ghar.

Textile Printing Unit – is functioning well and also introducing new products which are very popular. The textile unit participated at the AIWC Shilpkala Utsav which fetched them good revenue and also got them publicity. As a result of which one of the professional institutes in Northern India requested them to train 70 girls. This can prove to be very prestigious for the organization as it brings us on the map of the designer world.

Vocational College – a new Principal for the college has been appointed, Dr. Mrs. Ramesh Madan.

The vocational college is being promoted to be a multiple skill institute catering specially to the lower economic strata of the society. The fees are very affordable and courses introduced as per the requirement of the present days, such as housekeeping, care of the elderly, play centre management. The courses are open for both boys and girls.

Membership of the library has been made compulsory for them, this is to inculcate the habit of reading. Students are encouraged to take part in activities whether at the headoffice or at other organizations such as Viswa Yuvak Kendra, NIPCCD. An ECO club has been formed where the students take interest in gardening and are made aware of the conservation of the Environment.

MCM Library & Roshni- After the completion of renovation work the MCM Library was reopened. The library is being modernized in a big way. The process of automation has started which involves computerization, cataloguing of books and documents using KOHA, an integrated library management software.

A grant of Rs. 5,60,000.00 from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has been received in

the year 2014-15 for preservation and conservation of manuscripts, rare books, old & rare documents, record of history 2014-15. A person with archival qualification is to be employed in one of the posts in the library to look after the working. This work is going to change the very nature of the library set up as well shall ensure that the rich past of the organization is well preserved.

The library is also looking at the possibilities of setting up of a woman's and gender studies center in the near future.

Head Office- Important Events held during the last six months-

1. A seminar on the recommendations of the J.S. Verma Committee, was held at the IIC. This was organized by our Vice-President and funded by the head office. The purpose was to create awareness and educate the women about the amended criminal laws and the condition of women, even after the stringent laws recommended by J.S. Verma committee. This was the last of the laws introduced after the Nirbhaya rape case. This seminar was repeated in three other cities – Kolkata, Trivandrum, Mumbai.
2. 14th August 2014 Independence Day was observed with Devaki Jain an eminent economist and women's rights activist, and family members of Freedom fighter Chameli Devi. Devaki Jain talked about her days spent with Chameli Devi, A rare documentary on the life of Chameli Devi, freedom fighter was shown. It was followed by flag hoisting and Independence Day celebration.
3. 8th September – International literacy day and sustainable development was celebrated with member's staff and students, President Veena Kohli talked about importance of literacy and education and how they can help advance

sustainable development. Chandraprabha Pandey explained how of 8 Millennium development goals, sustainable development was one and how literacy was a key player in its achievement. Students of NIOS talked about their experience of education's role in their life.

4. International Peace Day was celebrated at AIWC headoffice on 20th September, 2014. Eminent poets Shri Lakshmi Shankar Bajpai, Shayar Kunwar Ranjeet, Mamta Shankar, and Vocalist Ritu Jain were invited to give a talk and perform.
5. AIWC took a pledge on 1st October, 2014 to get environment friendly and make 6-Bhagwan Dass Road, garbage free campus. This was in keeping with the Prime Minister's call of Swach Bharat.
6. To help the flood victims of Kashmir, AIWC contributed blankets, sweaters, food packets, utensils etc. Generous donations were also received from the branches in cash and kind.
7. An orientation program for the Zonal organisers was held in November, 2014 in which Vice-Presidents and Zonal Members participated. This program was held to apprise them of their responsibility and what is expected of them. To make the task of setting up a zonal office easier and smooth functioning, each of the zonal organisers was given a laptop, besides the other facilities provided.
8. An Inter college debate was organised and held on 12th November at Aga Khan Hall. The subject of the debate was 'Traditional Values and Ideals are no longer relevant for Women's Empowerment'. Prizes and certificates were distributed to participants.
9. The debate was an introduction of AIWC to the

younger generation. It is strongly felt at the headoffice that we need to prepare a second line of generation. Voluntary work needs to be promoted and more and more people should be encouraged to come forward.

10. Annual woman artisan's crafts bazaar is organized every year. Focused on empowering women artisans, eliminating middlemen and promoting crafts. 3rd edition was organized from 26th–28th November 2014, at Aga Khan Hall, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi.

It was inaugurated on 26th November by EU Ambassador's wife, Dr. Jessica Hallett Cravinho, Art & Textile expert. Mrs. Jaya Bachchan was the Guest of Honour visited on 27th November. The Development Commissioner and Additional Development Commissioner of Handicrafts visited on 28th November.

AIWC sanctioned a budget for this project, and revenue was generated by selling stall spaces to NGO's and women entrepreneurs and we managed to get part support from the Office of Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textile.

11. A talk on 'Meditation for Self Empowerment' was held on 3rd January, 2015 by Sister Sonika from Om Shanti Retreat Centre.
12. A lecture on Women and Lifestyle" was given by a Senior Cardiologist, Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, on 12th Jan 2015 in MCM Library. It was well attended by the students of the vocational college, Bapnu Ghar inmates and staff and members of AIWC.
13. A talk on 'Climate Change and Cities' was arranged on 5th Feb, 2015. The Speaker was Prof. Usha Raghupathi, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi.

Republic Day Awards to Our Brave Children

The highest bravery award the Bharat Award was given to Resham Fatma the 16 year old acid attack survivor had fought off her uncle, managed to escape from his car and taken an auto to the police station.

The Indian Council for Child Welfare, which instituted this award, has selected 24 winners this year—eight girls and 16 boys. Four of them will receive the award posthumously. Among the winners are kids who have plunged into rivers or ponds to rescue those drowning, sent a leopard packing by chucking mangoes at it, saved others from electrocution and taken bullets meant for others., Ashwini Bandu Ughade, 13, saved her sister from a leopard—an animal she'd never seen before—by throwing mangoes they'd just collected from a farm. The teen from Akole district of Maharashtra hopes to be a policewoman. At seven, Ri-pa Das from Tripura is the youngest winner of a National Bravery Award this year; she protected her little brother from a fire and took him to safety. Pint-sized Mhonbeni Ezung, from

Nagaland, managed to save her grandmother—considerably bigger than her—from drowning. G Tooldev Sharma, from Manipur, did the same for a neighbour and he doesn't even know how to swim. His mum, though, gives equal credit to a bamboo pole that the boy clung to during the rescue.

Balram Dansena (11, Chhat-tisgarh). Hiral Jitubhai Halpati (17, Gujarat), Vishal Becharb-hai Katosana (10, Gujarat), Raj-deep Das (16, Jharkhand), An-jith P (12, Kerala), Aquil Mohammad NK (9, Kerala), Midhun P P (14, Kerala) and Stevenson Lawriniang (14, Kerala) all made hair-raising rescues in water. Gaurav Kumar Bharti (15, Uttar Pradesh) and Mesak K Remnalalghaka (14, Mizo-ram) died trying to save others from whirlpools. Gaurav's father Shambhu Nath Bharti, a policeman, says his son was "fearless" and an excellent student. "He'd written just two papers before the incident in March 2014 and had secured 190 marks," says Bharti. L Brain-son Singh (10, Manipur) saved his six year-old brother Wayen-gamba from electrocution.



Sh. Pranab Mukherji, President of India with brave children, 26th January 2015

87th AIWC Annual Conference 18th-20th February, 2015, Vadodara, Gujarat **Smt. Veena Kohli's Presidential Address**

We are extremely honored this morning to be in the august company of respected Smt. Anandiben Patel, the Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat and Smt Ramada Shubhangini Devi Gaekwad. Madam Chief Minister and the honorable guests, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the 87th Annual Conference of All India Women's Conference. Thank you very much for sparing your most valuable time to be with us.

It is also a great pleasure to have amongst us Mrs. Geeta Garodia, Mrs. Sonal Hangrani, distinguished guests, our dear Patrons, Vice- presidents, Secretary general, Treasurer, members-in-charge, representatives from outstation branches and observers. Thank you so much for being here with us and for the efforts that you have made to travel all the way to attend this meeting. My heartiest welcome to all of you. I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you present here peace and happiness in the year that lies ahead. I sincerely hope and pray that may the year 2015 be a year filled with joy, health and good fortune.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation and many thanks to Smt Lakshmi Upadhaya, President of AIWC Gujarat, and all the members of the Gujrat branches, for hosting the Annual Meeting of All India Women's Conference at Vadodara, a glorious city of Art and Architecture with a rich heritage. This meeting also has a special significance as the first President of AIWC was Maharani Chimnabai Gaekwad in 1927.

All India Women's Conference is one of the oldest premier women's voluntary organization involved in the field of women's education and empowerment for

the last 85 years. Its founder, Margaret Cousins was an Irish woman, who urged her Indian compatriots to take heed of the changing world and the new socialist movements. Pioneering well educated Indian women, rose to the challenge. AIWC was registered on 18th of July 1930 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

AIWC has a history of glorious past. When women and the cause of women was not a household word, some determined and compassionate women took the first initiative to forge a path that would awaken this nation to the concepts of gender rights and equality for women in all spheres

Since inception, AIWC has been deeply concerned about the economic, social and legal needs of women and has played a vital role in the enactment and modification of laws pertaining to dowry, purdah, child marriage, women's franchise, compulsory education for girls, domestic violence, safety of women etc. The organization has always adopted participatory approach in the implementation of its programs focused on women's education, health, capacity building, income generation programs etc. through a wide network of its branches..

The uniqueness of the organization is that all its members are voluntary workers. They work at grass root level spread in 9 zones across the country through a network of 520 branches and constituent branches with a membership of 2 lakh women. Our strength is the unity which is represented through thousands of women who get together during the 2 conferences held every year in different Indian cities organized by the host branches. It is interesting to note that an organization which started with a

handful of likeminded women is growing every day by adding more and more members, based on Gandhiji's concept of volunteerism. Till today, when the people live in an increasingly "money for work" conscious world, AIWC continues to be run by Volunteers, an age-old model that has survived the test of time.

Marching towards the Goal of Empowerment :

Faced with the new challenges of the 20th and the 21st century, AIWC now runs vocational training centres, hostels for working women, short stay homes, old age homes, health facilities and awareness programs, advocacy for climate change and alternate energy, etc. while fulfilling its primary goal of improving female literacy. AIWC continues to be a dynamic organization working quietly at the grass-root level, fulfilling the aspirations of millions of women.

At the International level we have a Consultative Status with the United Nations (ECOSOC). We are affiliated to the International Alliance for Women, and are a member of Pan Pacific South East Asian Women, Inforse, Global Water Partnership and WREN.

Targets to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:

The AIWC has set for itself targets in order to promote gender equality and bring about women's empowerment. These include active campaigning to get women reservation in the 'Panchayats' and the 'Parliament' so that they get a fair say in the decision making processes, promoting the rights of the girl child and her education and vigorous campaigning to end female feticide. The AIWC also endeavors to promote the land rights of women of agricultural communities.

AIWC and its branches have been working tirelessly for improving the lives of Indian women and questioning as to why the Indian woman has been

quietly suffering and that the time has come and the message is loud and clear for a societal change with an accountable governance and a political leadership which single mindedly works for the welfare of the people and not for their personal interests. The whole country is demanding for the changes to happen swiftly.

We continue to bring up the issue of infanticide. Sadly we have to say that the harsh reality is that today the national sex ratio is 914 girls to 1000 boys. In some states it is even lower. This cruel practice of feticide and infanticide is the 'shame on India' that we do not even allow girls to be born which requires an urgent realization for a change in our attitudes.

We strongly condemn these practices that have led to the elimination of millions of girls and women from India's population, and lend our wholehearted support to the government of India's program on 'Beti Bachao Beti Parho'

And on grounds of human rights, immediate and effective action needs to be taken by the government, through the implementation of rapid action task forces, to halt this feticide. We also insist that the government should officially commit to a time-line within which the associated practices of female feticide, female infanticide, dowry murders and rapes will be effectively arrested through the rigorous enforcement of existing laws and a stringent accountability on the part of India's hospitals, government offices, police and law enforcement agencies.

We Indians call our nation 'Mother India' and are great devotees of Mother Goddess in various manifestations. * But we all are openly playing a double standard game with our country as well as our Goddess. While we claim that we worship Maa Saraswati, Maa Durga, Maa Laksmi, yet we are continuously destroying the precious gift of nature, a girl child.

At this juncture when we talk of attitude, I must add that even women have to change their mindset towards the girl child. To some extent I would daresay that we women are also partly responsible for this tragic situation.

What is needed now is to make sure that every family in the country should be educated and must learn that the Girl Child is not a burden but she is a gift given to us by God and that she is in no way second to a boy.

Poverty :

Poverty is considered as the greatest threat to peace in the world, and eradication of poverty should be a national goal as important as the eradication of illiteracy. It is due to poverty that women are marginalized and exploited. Additionally, sex slaves are a direct outcome of poverty.

There is a worldwide activity to remove poverty and live a life of dignity, freedom from want, and improve the quality of life. AIWC continues to focus on eradication of poverty. Poverty has many dimensions and it is not to be looked in isolation. We have, therefore, programs which will strengthen women's capacity to get jobs, set up their own enterprises so that they are economically independent. We have designed various programs like literacy cum vocational training, exhibitions and Utsavs, skill based programs , social-economic schemes , along with awareness on importance of education, health, sanitation and women's rights.

It will still take a lot of time for the Indian woman to be able to increase her money power. But we can work for it to happen. I quote President Obama, "A day will come when a woman in an Indian village will partner a business man from America"!

Education :

As early as 1930 Late Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, one of the most articulate women

leaders of AIWC, declared, "Education is the birthright of every child that comes into this world and it claims that right from society".

The main focus of our work has been to bring about reforms in education and to make sure that every girl goes to school and is educated. While the country has grown by leaps and bounds since its Independence where education is concerned, the gap between women and men is wide. While 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult women are known to be literate in India. Not only is an illiterate women at the mercy of her husband, father or son, she also does not know that this is not the way of life for women across the world.

Equal opportunities for women should be such, that if a woman rises to the top of her field it should be accepted as a normal achievement and not an extraordinary occurrence that draws great attention . This can only happen by creating a basic environment where women are educated and trained so as to be able to make their independent decisions in their personal development and shine as equals in the society.

We encourage capacity building for women through job oriented skill training simultaneously with literacy, numeracy and awareness. We partially support the schools run by our branches and provide scholarships to deserving meritorious girl students who are doing professional courses belonging to the under privileged and economically weaker sections of the society.

Health & Safety :

The health and safety concerns of women are of paramount importance for the wellbeing of a country. It is an important factor in gauging the empowerment of women in a country. However there are alarming concerns where maternal healthcare is concerned.

The crime rate against women has alarmingly increased. Between 2 to 3 lac cases are registered

every year. There are acute reasons in the Indian citizenry that such behavior continues despite the apparent movement towards civilization.

While there are several programs that have been set into motion by the Government and several NGOs in the country, there is still a wide gap that exists between those under protection and those who are not. The empowerment of women begins with a guarantee of their health and safety. AIWC has several health programs which benefit women and children. But these are not enough as we cannot cover all aspects due to fund constraints and lack of sufficient infrastructure.

There are still many aspects which need to be taken care of before we can say that the Gender Parity Index has risen satisfactorily. A great deterrent to development is the population growing at a fast rate. It is difficult to keep pace when the population doubles every 20 years. Many welfare programs just get lost and lose their relevance. This has to be looked into with a greater concern.

To realize truly what is women empowerment, there needs to be a sea-change in the mind-set of the people in the country. Not just the women themselves, but the men have to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity. To meet these challenges our generation has to work faster as huge expectations are expected from us as members of AIWC. We all must take responsibility for making changes. It is better that we do this early and as fast as possible for our own good.

This has been said time and again and I am saying it too. But as a eminent Lawyer Mr. Fali Nariman said

recently, "Everything has been said but since no one listens everything has to be said again."!

In conclusion, we continue to request from you as decision makers and authorities, that All India Women's Conference be recognized and given a status as a national NGO who has been working for the welfare of women since the last 87 years. We want a place in the decision making process of the governance and the facility to institutionalize our work. Although we work as volunteers, we have many members amongst us who are professional and highly capable of managing any project. Needles to say that their dedication and sincerity to the women's movement is unquestionable.

Let us declare 2015 a year of dynamic development and jointly struggle to achieve our goals. We now have the advantage of knowledge, technology is at our doorstep, and strategies have been evolved to meet the challenges. Our large network is our strength. We are all connected on the platform of AIWC and work by putting our heart and soul together. Like links in a chain which cannot be broken, we as committed women will continue to join hands, and create yet a stronger network for working towards the empowerment of all women and remove the disparities which still exist in the society.

I quote Swami Vivekananda, who said, "arise awake and stop not until the goal is reached".

We have started on this pilgrimage with a purpose and a kind heart and we shall reach the end of the journey one day!

Thank you, Jaihind.



Return of Lost Words - Academics at Wayne State University in Michigan are focused on the "glorious variety" of long-lost words that have fallen out of favour. To further that aim. the Word Warrior project has released a top 10 of lost words for 2015. It includes rarely heard words such as "opsimath" and "subtopia". - Jamie Herelli

My Experiences at C.S.W 59 - New York

- Mrs. Kuljit Kaur, Vice-President-AIWC

This was a crucial year for Commission for Status of Women at New York since it had completed 20 years of Beijing declaration. The member countries who ratified the declaration in 1995 were to report on the action taken on the 12 most crucial areas, Millennium development goals and Plan of Action. 17000 women had attended at Beijing 1995. AIWC had also received the invitation being a member of Eco Soc and having consultative status with U.N.O. This time, AIWC decided to participate in a Parallel Event. After much discussion, the subject selected was "Women and Poverty – Women and Economic Empowerment".

We reached New York on 6th afternoon. On 7th, fully equipped to face snowfall and freezing chill, we went to register ourselves at the U.N. When we visited the Twin Towers destroyed on 9/11, we were touched by the sight of the death roll of all those who perished.

8 of us had registered to attend the opening day event, the Beijing + 20 rally, which started at Apollo Theatre at 9.30 am, and assembled in Times Square at 2.30. At Apollo Theatre we were welcomed by Chairperson, U.N. Women, Executive Director, Phumzila Miambo Nigneka. National representatives spoke about their respective achievements in 20 years. The greatest impact was created by the representative of African region when she informed that womens silence had been broken, female mutilation, and child marriage has completely stopped amongst indigenous African people.

Ruchira Gupta from the Indian organization "Apne Aap" was given Woman of the World award for her role in stopping trafficking and rehabilitating the survivors. Speaking about her experiences, she concluded that 'Change begins at the bottom and transforms at the top'. In the afternoon, there was a



panel discussion on women empowerment by boys & girls of different regions headed by Ms. Mary Robinson. At 3.30 we all were at Time square, a sight to be seen, it showed the strength of the women of the world. Huge photographs on all sides at Time Square - inspiring speeches by persons like Laxmi Puri- Mingling and mixing with representatives of other organizations.

There were morning briefings and orientation program for NGOs. Bulbul Das and myself attended caucus meeting of Asia Pacific, and interacted with others. Pakistan representatives were also present in large numbers. Problems of each country were discussed & presented to other groups. General Assembly inauguration/ sessions were attended by 2 members turn by turn sharing only 2 passes.

Parallel events- highlights

- Ø "Trafficking and Migration, Girls and women, Human Rights have no borders".

In this parallel event, Diana from Canada spoke about trafficking in Canada "It is a modern day slavery and an organized crime . Girls are compelled to have multiple sex partners every night, the sad part is a survivor dies before she can be rehabilitated. She recommended collective working of all on this issue.

- Ø "Violence against Women": Charlie A Thomas said that Violence effects 30% of the women worldwide and there are no binding instruments to curb it. The protecting laws for women are not binding constitutional rights but only recommendations. Civil society must change social norms. Marity Parker from San Francisco FBI gave a definition of different type of human trafficking. Not only girls but boys are also manipulated to selling their bodies in hotel room, casino etc. Girls, and children are the easy victims.

9th evening was the reception for all NGO

representatives at Armenian theatre, Guild Hall, another opportunity to meet other NGO friends. Each day, we attended different events and exchanged our views and experiences in the evening.

Session on Climate Change & Women: In the informative session on "Women Human Rights and Climate Change the Good and Bad News", organized by NGO CSW/NY/UNEP, Lakshmi Puri, Larena and Mary Robinson discussed the correlation between women empowerment and climate change.

Session on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights for All' was organized on 11th by Task force for the International conference on Population & Development (ICPD). The program for action adopted by 179 countries in Cairo in 1994, defined the rights of women, including their reproductive rights and health. The stark reality is that every day 800 women die due to preventive pregnancies and child birth complications. In the end, the documentary asked whether we should move like turtle or fight like horse for women rights and presented rubber turtle to all the participants.

Address by Hillary Rodham Clinton: This was a simultaneous event in ECO SOC Hall where due to overcrowding they had to display her speech on the screens in the corridor of UN building.

Session on "Feminist Agreement and Demands – New Action on Human Rights" by "European Women's Lobby, UN Women & Sweden". Lady Minister from Sweden talked about rapid developments in Sweden. Laxmi Puri had to add that when a question is asked where is the paradise of gender equality and the answer is Sweden. She said Nordic country have set good examples of gender equality, but developing countries must find their own solutions. Where women are still struggling in poverty, she said monitoring, implementation of laws, accountability and means of implementation should be followed.

Session on Women's Rights at the cross roads of Economic and Sexual Exploitation Beijing + 20 and Prostitution was organized on 11th by Swedish Women's Lobby CAP International, N.A.W.O of U.K. The Minister from Sweden informed that prostitution is legally banned and completely abolished in Sweden. Ruchira Gupta said that step taken by Sweden has helped India to treat perpetrators as criminals. In Canada vide new law of 2013 prostitution and buying sex is a crime, but some prostitutes have appealed to the Supreme Court against this clause. In Spain prostitution is an organized crime. Spain Constitution says men and women are equal but still women are forced into prostitution.

As per UN fundamental treaty, prostitution is violation of human dignity and states have binding obligation to stop exploitation. Article 6 of CEDAW condemns all exploitation and it has been ratified by 188 countries.

Session on "How does your parliament work on legislation for Gender Equality" The representatives gave presentations and rosy picture about the steps taken for gender equality, but Secretary, UN has stated that the progress is very slow. As Emily Watson has said at UN, "NOT A single country can boast of gender equality".

"Is it the fundamental right of women to decide about her body" session was organized on 12th morning by "Femmes Solidaris" at Armenian Centre. Since I am a member of this Paris based organization, I presented my paper in support of the topic that it is the fundamental right of women to take decision about choosing marriage partner, giving birth to a child, the gap between the babies and the

right to go for abortion if there is health hazard or due to occupational reasons.

Amena from Morocco, Sabina from France, and member from Argentina also participated. In the end there was a healthy interaction with students of Trinity college, Cambridge University, U.K. and other participants present.

Women and Poverty- Womens Economic Empowerment on 12th was an event successfully organized by AIWC at CCUN (Mrs Veena Kohli's address is given elsewhere)

12th was a day of achievements and glory for all. Sudha Acharya UN representative of AIWC extended her hospitality at a dinner at a very reputed restaurant of New York.

"The World cannot afford to wait until the next century to have equal participation in Parliament and Govt." was organized on 13th by Germany, League of Women voters U.S.A and Asian Women's Association. They discussed hurdles women face to progress in life and participate in the nations mainstream.

"Gender Equality and Aging Society" session on 13th was by Japan and Philippines. Power presentation was given on the action taken by the Governments to give a life of respect and dignity to aged people. My interventions- what is the definition of Old Age? Is it the number of years or energy one can emulate? Yoga is the best way to maintain healthy old age and other points were appreciated by all participants.

15th was Sunday. I moved to Sudha Acharya's place for a wonderful stay before leaving for India on the 16th, tired but immensely satisfied with the hectic 10 day tour.



Rescued from the jaws of death : Kanta Vankar, a village girl of Gujarat, was washing clothes, when a crocodile dragged her into the river. Her mother Divali heard her screams. Showing immense courage, she attacked the crocodile with a washing bat, until it let go of the girl. Injured Kanta was treated in a hospital in the nearby town of Padra.

25th Anniversary Celebration of Ujjwal

- Yuthika Mishra & Chitra Sarkar

On 14th February this year, Delhi celebrated the swearing in our new Chief Minister. Youngsters celebrated Valentine's Day. And we, at Ujjwal, celebrated the silver jubilee of our branch.

Undaunted by the massive show of strength by the Aam Aadmi Party at the nearby Ram Lila grounds, we made our way through the winding lanes of Chandni Chowk to the Heritage Centre in Sitaram Bazaar, a beautifully restored old haveli which was our chosen venue.

Mrs. Bina Jain, our Founder President, and Ms. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary of Ujjwal, along with several members, had taken up their positions long before potential disruptions could affect the function. A group of children, all beneficiaries of our various educational modules, waited in their costumes and make up, ready to take part in the cultural fiesta.

At 11:30 a.m., our Mistress of Ceremonies, Dr. Yuthika Mishra, resplendent in Rajasthani attire, called the gathering to order. After Ganesh Vandana, our patron Mrs. Bina Jain gave her keynote address, recalling the early days of Ujjwal, when she and a handful of dedicated volunteers like Mrs. Gambhir had started Ujjwal close to a jhuggi. They were determined to help the underprivileged women of the area realise their potential by overcoming the

constraints that held them back. Mrs. Jain described how the efforts of those early days had transformed the branch into a banyan tree, spreading its shelter and its benefits to a much larger community in its silver jubilee year.

Mrs. Veena Kohli President, Mrs. Asha Gambhir, Secretary-General, and Ms. Amreshwari, Treasurer, who had provided invaluable assistance and support to Ujjwal over the years were honoured.

Mrs. Kiran Sinha recited an inspiring poem on women's empowerment, a young member sang songs of her own composition on injustice faced by young women. This was followed by a play entitled "Ujjwal", written and directed by Mrs. Kiran Sinha. It depicted a little girl from an impoverished family, who helps her family achieve a life of dignity, with the support of Ujjwal, truly becoming "Ujjwala".

The highlight of the event was a folk dance, performed in full costume, by our members, this was followed by a fashion show, choreographed by a former student of our fashion designing course.

We were grateful for the support of our Councillor who attended the function and generously sponsored the delicious street food lunch which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Super-cop Rescues Children

- Rashmi Drolia

She may not be a decorated encounter cop or a trained undercover agent, but she displayed unusual grit and gumption to bust organized trafficking rings in Raipur to earn the sobriquet of Chhattisgarh's 'Mardani'. After nabbing 15 traffickers and rescuing 20 children from Delhi's hellholes, she's become a blockbuster star in the state.

Disguised as salesgirl, selling body massagers on the street, facing life threats and spurning big bribes to withdraw investigation, sub-inspector Mallika Banerjee (30) of the anti-human trafficking cell fought to meet the Supreme Court deadline to trace missing children. When she began her Mission Delhi, she only had a tip-off.

She raided placement agencies and rescued two kids and arrested four agents from a train on Ambikapur-Sitapur stretch. Documents revealed that children were sold for Rs. 30,000-Rs. 35,000 with a monthly fixed payment of Rs. 5,000. Mallika disguised as a salesgirl, sold body massagers at Aman Vihar for five days. She gathered inputs from households and finally zeroed in on the children.

Learning Lessons from Life

Admittedly one of the most painful things in life is loss. Losing contact with someone we love is heartbreaking. However, many couples decide to call it quits after months and sometimes years of emotional and physical intimacy, and then find it hard to deal with the break-up.

Though relationships take a long time to come undone, counsellors explain that closure, with each individual picking up the pieces and beginning to lead his/her own life, takes a much longer time, and a lot of thought. You might never be prepared for a break-up, but there are ways to soften the blow and manage the painful months that follow.

Think, but dont obsess - It's completely healthy and natural to replay a recently ended relationship repeatedly in your mind. Thinking it through might mean understanding your role in the relationship, and perhaps what led to the break-up. But relationship experts insist that you keep your emotions in check. When people go through a breakup, they let their emotions get out of control, and the process becomes much more painful and difficult than it already is.

And there's a difference between "thinking through" and obsessing over a failed relationship. The latter is a negative way of dealing with a heartbreak as it always ends with allocating blame. And more often than not, you blame yourself or the other person. But it's not healthy to place all of the blame on yourself or on your ex. If he/she were completely responsible for everything toxic in the relationship, wouldn't you have been the person initiating the break-up?

It's important to think about what happened, but over time, it's imperative that you stop dwelling on the mistakes of the past and allow yourself to continue living your life, so you can have new emotional experiences and make new memories.

Memory Block - It's fine to be friends, but take that friendship very slow and be sure to set boundaries. It's hard to get over a person when you are still in

touch with him/her. And while you are doing that in the real world, try it in the virtual one too. Block - do whatever it takes to delete the ex from your memory. Likewise, it's imperative to remove what are known as memory triggers that remind you not only of the good times, but also the bad. You don't have to burn the photos and play tickets, but it's time to take the physical objects that serve as perpetual mementos of the life you once shared and put them away somewhere where you won't see them every single day.

While a cleanse is therapeutic, relationship experts advise against completely ridding your world of all memory triggers too. Each of our relationships becomes a part of who we are, and removing that piece from your memory also takes away a part of your own identity. If you become too focused on ridding your life of them, you'll end up spending more time thinking about that than you'll spend actually moving on.

Set a 'move on' deadline - A grieving period is permitted, but spending too much time sobbing about what happened not only slows the process of closure, but also affects future relationships. It sounds odd, but setting a firm deadline on the time spent wallowing in self-pity helps bring an end to the process. Why is it so odd to set a firm date stating the first day you will refuse to dwell on the past? And once you set that deadline, stick to it.

Turn it into a lesson - So the relationship didn't go the way you imagined, but surely the higher forces had a purpose. So, don't hold grudges. Instead, apply what you've learnt from this breakup to your next relationship. What lessons can you carry forward so that you reduce the chances of the next relationship ending the same way? No one can completely predict the outcome of a new relationship, but you may be able to detect patterns earlier on. If you do, perhaps it won't lead to failure and misery like the previous one did.

(From Sunday Times of India)

CSW 59-New York - A Summing up

- Amareswari Morla, Treasurer, AIWC

The UN Women is the United Nations Organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Its aim and objective was to take stock of women's rights and mixed progress. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 is a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women. It still remains today the most comprehensive global policy framework and blueprint for action, and is a source of guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls everywhere.

Since 1995, governments, civil society and other stake holders have worked to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and achieve equality in all areas of life, in public and in private spaces. Today the phrase "Women's Rights are Human Rights", covers human rights in all 12 critical areas of concern, making it relevant to economic empowerment, education, the girl child, political participation and poverty.

NGOs played a crucial role in shaping that process, NGO CSW/New York is committed to doing its part in this new era of women's human rights.

CSW 59 activities

- ◆ On the first day 8th March, 2015 we were welcomed at the Apollo Theatre, with the message of Soon-Young Noon, Chair NGO Committee. The keynote address was by Ruchira Gupta, Indian Women of Distinction

Awardee, and winner of Clinton Global Citizen Award for working on "The Selling of Innocents". This was followed by the I am 20 march commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Beijing conference.

- ◆ The NGO CSW Forum Reception at the Ball Room, Armenian Convention Centre, was for orientation of new NGOs. The subjects covered were : Defining gender equality for local to global advocacy, policies and practice, Beijing to post 2015 development goals, and the way forward to empowerment.
- ◆ Co-sponsored events were held on many subjects
 - ✓ Women's Human Rights and Climate Change- the good and the bad news;
 - ✓ Empowerment of women in political, economic and social fields;
 - ✓ Empowering women to be leaders behind climate change mitigation;
 - ✓ Eliminating violence against women;
 - ✓ Strategies to empower women and build peaceful, egalitarian societies;
 - ✓ Kashmiri women's suffering in protracted conflict;
 - ✓ Discussion of the environment gender index, a core subject relevant to the forthcoming Paris conference.
- ◆ The AIWC sponsored parallel event on

Women and Poverty Womens Economic Empowerment was well received with over 90 participants. There was an expert panel, with excellent management by the moderator Prof. Pam Rajput.

- ◆ Highlight of one side- event was the speech by Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Secretary of State. Prolonged applause greeted her final comment that there was never a better time in history to be born female".

Each day brought a number of events from which it was hard to choose. The discussions presenting many views, helped us understand the intense struggle to achieve " womans rights as human

rights".The flow of experiences from around the world, lifted ones confidence in implementing future strategies by AIWC, further raising the stature of our organization, widening its impact at a national level.

Summing up, attending the UN General Assembly, fulfilled a dream of ones student days! To be actually present in that magnificent Assembly listening to the address by the Secretary- General was an unforgettable experience.

This was possible only because of AIWCs distinguished record in working for womens cause. My heartfelt thanks to our President Veenaji, and our patrons in the International Committee, who made it possible to realize this dream.

The Guardian

She always leaned to watch for us

Anxious if we were late.

In winter by the window, in summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly, Who had such foolish care

The long way home would seem more safe, Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us, She never could forget

And so I think that where she is, She must be watching yet.

Waiting till we come home to her, Anxious if we are late.

Now watching from Heavens window

Leaning from heavens gate !

Margaret Widdemer (Pulitzer prize-winner)

Celebrating International Womens Day

- The Rajdhani Way

- Mythily Jagannathan

Different themes, different venues marked the celebration of International Womens Day In Delhi in the month of March.

Government of Delhi - Womens Safety was the theme of the joint function by Women and Child Department, Government of Delhi, Delhi Womens Commission and Delhi Police (Northern and Central Zone), organized on 8th March in the Delhi Secretariat.. The program was well attended by a large number of women and children. VIPs attending the program were Sh Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, Sh Manish Sisodia, Dy Chief Minister, and Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, MP. The Chief Guest was Sh B. S. Bassi, Comissioner of Police, Delhi.

After school children presented skits on the theme of women dealing with harassment and molestation through self- defence tactics, the special invitees discussed various schemes through which women could ensure their rightful place in society, measures for improving womens security were also discussed. The overall messages conveyed were: women are not weak, but stronger than men in many ways; both mother and wife share credit for a mans success; women are also responsible for changing the social mindset in their favour, both police personnel and civil society need to be made aware of recent changes in law for womens protection.

Guild of Service - On 4th March, celebrations of the Guild of Service, Chairperson Smt Mohini Giri, started with a Sarva Dharma Sammelan, held in Gandhi Smriti. Representatives from all religions offered prayers for peace. The message of Mr Ban-ki- Moon, Secretary- General of the United Nations on the equality of women, and educating them to be agents of change, was read out.

Hello Moms, Dwarka - Beti bachao, beti padhao, was the theme of the celebrations on 8th March by

Hello Moms, (affiliated to AIWC const. branch SWEDWA), President Rajalakshmi Kurup welcomed the gathering of women and children of Dwarka, adopted village Pochanpur, and guests. The Chief Guests were Sh Kharbanda, Manager, Syndicate Bank, Dwarka, and Sh Niraj Tokas, SHO. There was a discussion on ways in which the slogan Beto bachao can be effectively implemented, and role of police and civil society in providing opportunities to girl children. It was suggested that the slogan should be completed by adding skill training for giving girls income – earning capacity.

Sulabh International - Sulabh International celebrated the occasion at their Centre for Action on 8th March. Eminent social activists, teachers, students and Sulabh management – Mrs Usha Chaumar, Mrs Madhubala Sharma, Mrs Nitya Pathak, Dr Indrani Mukherji, Sulabh personnel and others attended in large numbers.

Mrs Asha Chandra launched a family welfare scheme with drivers training for girls of low income group, to enable employment.

Leading experts spoke on health, and gender equality. Mrs Kalpakam Yechury, AIWC, spoke on "Womens role in sanitation and waste manangement" There was a skit based on the life of Mary Kom, poems and songs by children, and a fashion show with clothes entirely made of waste material.

AIWC Celebration - Womens day was celebrated by AIWC hq on 16th March. The program was attended by patrons Dr Aparna Basu, Dr Manorama Bawa, and Smt Bina Jain, members, students and staff of AIWC. The chief guest was Dr Lakshmi devi, Principal, Shahid Rajguru College for Applied Sciences for Women.

Dr Manorama Bawa introduced the speaker, commending her innovative ways of opening new opportunities for girls.

Dr Aparna Basu recollected that the first Charter of Womens Rights was presented by AIWC member Ms Hansa Mehta in the UN in 1947, when the International Charter of Human Rights was under preparation. In 1968, AIWC was the first NGO to join the newly formed ECOSOC. Since then, womens rights in India had grown many branches, economic, legal, and social. But the growing number of atrocities in recent years called for strict measures and more efforts for womens security,

Dr Manorama Bawa described her own efforts as an educationist in Bihar. In addition to her work as a lecturer in a womens college, she went to villages, and helped to create awareness through meetings and discussion, thus promoting the education of girls. From its earliest years, AIWC was dedicated to the cause of womens literacy, and continued to serve womens cause by initiating numerous programs all over India.

Dr Lakshmi devi began with reciting a sloka in which all joined. In her presentation she added the phrase

"Hunar sikhao" (teach skills), to the slogan Beti bachao, Beti Padhao. She described her experiences of teaching girls, and the discussed best ways in which we could implement the slogan, and bring about change in the lives of girls.

She brought out little known facts about the origin of womens movement in different parts of the world. She felt that women in India were fortunate as many rights came to them without having to fight for them.

Dr Ramesh Madan, Principal, AIWC Vocational college spoke of the significance of International Womens Day for empowering women in all respects. Students Hemlata, and Varsha recited poems while Neelam gave a perspective on International Womens Day. Ms Kiran Sinha member Ujjawal through her poem, gave a rousing call to women to oppose repression in any form.

Summing up the program, Mrs Bina Jain spoke of ways in which we can all help by encouraging literacy, girls education, as well as creating health and nutrition awareness, in our own family and social circle. If we all try to widen the awareness of people around us, we can help to bring about a significant change in womens lives and in society.

The Reason Why...

Top 10 reasons why couples stay in an unhappy marriage and avoid getting divorced are pointed out in a recent study. According to the U.K. survey of 2000 married parents, four in 10 are currently in a marriage they aren't completely happy with. Some have too much to lose, while 37% admitted they have held off on divorce due to concerns about their children. One in four unhappy couples are only planning to stay together until their kids grow up. The top 10 reasons for staying in an unhappy marriage are :

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ I have too much to lose | ■ Stigma of divorce |
| ■ Worried about the impact on the kids | ■ For my partner's money |
| ■ I can't afford to move out/live on my own | ■ Worried about how we will manage contact with the children |
| ■ I can't afford to go through a divorce | ■ I worry I won't meet anyone else |
| ■ I want to give it some more time before making a final decision | ■ We have too many shared financial interests |

CSW 59 – Beijing + 20

- Dr. Vijeyalakshmi, Member-in-charge, Constitution



It was an amazing experience to widen and upgrade our potential to understand much more about global women's issues and work of Beijing +20 in 2015.

NGO committees on the status of women played a great role to strengthen the international women's movement in order to achieve equal status and Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

In CSW 59, 8th March 2015 was marked as "Program for Consultation Day". Other than this, there were three types of programmes such as sponsored programme, NGO Regional caucuses and Parallel events.

We members of the AIWC team attended the consultation day at Armenian Relief Society on 8th March, and the celebration march organized by New York city, UN women and civil society partners. We attended both sponsored events as well as NGO regional caucuses, and parallel events according to the area of interest of each delegate.

On 13th March 2015 I attended a panel discussion on "Gender equality in education: A much needed "Holistic Approach" conducted by Thailand. Actually Education and training of Women and girls is one of twelve critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

H.E. Yongyuth Yuthavong, Deputy Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government remarked that present text books and curriculum in schools do not reflect the totality of gender discrimination.

He would suggest that gender equality encompasses many more issues than schools and colleges, including family values and social norms reflected in every day life and the media and government policy on social affairs in general.

Prof. Dr. Juree Vichit Vadakan, Vice- chairman, National Commission on the Policy and Strategy for Advancement of Status of Women was the moderator of the session.

H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai, Ambassador and permanent representative of Thailand to the United Nations pointed out that their Government is ready to implement all kinds of innovative strategies in the field of education. Hence he motivated the panelist speakers to give more suggestions.

Mr. Jan Weetjens, Practice Manager, World Bank Social Development programme, presented review of school practices and curriculum, as well as a survey students' and teachers attitude to gender equality in Thailand. He said that Thailand has progressed well in reducing gender inequality. It also holds a good record of women's participation in economy and education and women in middle management of both public and private sectors. However, women fall behind in areas of leadership particularly at top levels of politics, business and public sector management.

Prof. Rae Lesser Blum berg, professor of sociology, University of Virginia gave a speech on the role of family & elder community for balancing the philosophy of gender equality in education. In family and community, enough occasions are there to mould the children through various society based interventions.

In conclusion, schools are special, controlled areas, social experiment and intervention for gender equality should be best carried out in schools with entire school staff on board and outreach to parents. A strong political will and commitment is required.

Why An Unequal World for Women?

- Dr Roshan Ara, President, AIWC Kashmir

Sexism has created a wider gap between humans which leads to their identification as men and women. But usually whenever we refer to men and women, it gives us a different indication that they are different in terms of their status where man is termed as powerful, dominant and resourceful and woman as weak, dominated and resource less individual.

World of differences :

The international women's day being celebrated every year throughout the world makes us to realise that irrespective of being the same human being, the world is different for a woman. It is a reality that men and women are not enjoying equal power and authority and there exists a vast difference in their status. As per some recent studies, it is quite obvious that men and women enjoy an unparalleled access to resources and opportunities. It is evident that women have been deliberately excluded from the social mainstreaming and made subservient to male sex. Thanks to women's movements, feminists' and educationists' contribution that women's issues are being brought to the topmost agenda of the policy makers and discussed and deliberated upon at the national and international foras. Due to misconceptions and lack of relevant data, women's issues have not been researched thoroughly and have remained out of sight.

Supportive Steps

Thus, being aware of the fact that sexism promotes an unequal and unjust society, a need arises for gender responsive and gender sensitive resource management that will help in narrowing the gap between the two sexes. The researchers and planners need to determine to what extent a developmental intervention is supportive to women.

The wellbeing of a nation lies in the wellbeing of its womenfolk and there is no other alternative but to shun prejudice and discrimination against women. Many policy makers, sociologists, economists and politicians have started realising the need for identifying and utilising women's full potential and involving them in nation building.

Reducing the gap

During the 11th plan gender equality remained the main priority and it was impressed upon the state to recognise that women are not a homogeneous category for planned interventions. Their needs and priorities are different because of being a different sex. In this regard official directives were issued by the Department of Women and Child Development that all the developmental programmes must reach women across all the sections of the society irrespective of regional, religious, cultural and social disparities.

Paraways to empowerment

Adequate measures need to be taken to ensure women with basic requirements such as availability of food, health and education and to provide them with an environment free from all forms of violence and exploitation. Gender equality should not be misinterpreted as pitting women against men but providing equal access to opportunities and resources. The enjoyment of rights and life chances should not be governed or limited by whether they are born male or female. The goal of policy making should be to bring about advancement, development and empowerment of women at all levels.

Economic and Social Security

Inequality of women is visible in all spheres of women's life. Women continue to be treated as

second class citizens within the realm of homes ,work places ,communities, economy and so forth . For women in general and poor women in particular basic infrastructure is very critical and they lack access to basic amenities of life like food security, clean drinking water, proper sanitation, health care, education, paid jobs and assets and resources .

The main reason responsible for their powerlessness and resourcelessness has been the lack of access to resources and opportunities of education and employment.

Some facts about womens role

Women act as backbone of agriculture but have no command over the ownership of land .A study conducted on time and energy spent by women and men in agricultural work found that 53% of total human hours were contributed by women while as only 31% were contributed by men .But in spite of such a great contribution of women ,it is quite surprising to know that less than 2% women hold titles of ownership of land .Since a person's bargaining power within the family, depends upon ownership of assets , access to resources and sources of earning, therefore ,it is ensured that women's bargaining power is weak .Another major impediment that acts in their way of gaining bargaining power is the non recognition of their work. Women perform an equal amount of work in all fields, whether it is business of husband or household duty. They even provide a lot of time and effort to their men for performing their duties outside the home in offices and other public places and thus it is she who extends her support and cooperation to men in enhancing their bargaining capacity.

Are women 2nd class citizens

Women are continuously being targeted for being a major junk of dependent and poor class citizens. They are not considered economically active and

productive because they possess a lesser bargaining power. Women remain confined to their domestic duties from dawn to dusk and her work is not counted in monetary terms because household duties ,though consuming their blood and sweat, is being termed as their natural role. Data from urban areas in Latin American countries reveals that unpaid house work is the principal activity for one in every four women whereas the corresponding ratio for man is one in every two hundred men. Reproductive work, however, needs to be considered as a gender issue as it gives women a special status. It is an irony that in the same household a man and a woman enjoy a different worlds as both have a different level of access to benefits and privileges.

Raising womens economic status

It becomes imperative for Government, planners and development practioners that women's work within the household needs to be given an economic recognition and its value in monetary terms needs to be measured. At the family level women have to be given an equal amount of assets and resources so that they are able to enhance their bargaining capacity at the household, social and, community levels as well. Therefore, creating an equal world of an equal status for womenfolk will be possible only when women are provided with same access to education, skills, training, paid jobs, ownership titles to land and other assets.

Their status will improve and the wider gap between the two genders will be narrowed once they are entitled to equal resources, equal opportunities and have access to services at par with men. Equally the barriers to personal development and economic empowerment created by gender disparity need to be reduced.

*Dr. Roshanara can be reached at -
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CSW 59—and After

- Dr Manju Kak, Member-in-Charge, International & National NGOs



The conference held between 9-20th March, 2015 at the UN Headquarters, New York and its allied/collaborative institutions, took stock of women's rights amid mixed progress. In a lead up to the conference, a record breaking 166 countries undertook national reviews regarding the status of women in their countries. Contributions also came through consultations with civil the 200 side events by society. More than 1100 NGOs and 8600 or more representatives attended governments and UN agencies, and official meetings of the Commission and an additional 450 parallel events by Civil Society. It was attended by 10 members of AIWC, headed by the President Veena Kohli and co ordinated by the Secretary General Asha Gambhir. Other members aside from myself, were MIC's Jyotika Kalra, Bulbul Das, Santha Das, Kuljit Kaur, Bhavatharini, KG Vijayalekshmy, and Lata Sinha.

While some events post 8th March were magnets for collective attendance, others were open to the

discrimination and interest of the individual members. Academia, civil servants, policy makers, grass root workers and civil society all came to the forefront to debate on the progress of women's issues since the 4th World Conference at Beijing in 1995.

Planet 50:50

In brief the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is considered the most comprehensive blueprint for advancing women's rights and it was adopted by 189 countries. It was concluded sadly that some regression has taken place in the broader interests of women, the general conclusion was that we in the larger feminist movement have not engaged with our goals in a focused and nuanced way so that targets on the ground have eluded us. It is important to reverse this by the year 2030, hence the slogan Planet 50:50.

To re-cap

Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) identified 12 critical areas of concern: 1. Women and the environment 2. Women in power and decision making 3. The girl child 4. Women and the economy 5. Women and poverty 6. Violence against women 7. Human rights of women 8. Education and training of women 9. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women 10. Women and health 11. Women and the media 12. Women and armed conflict

These are not legally binding. There is a moral obligation on member states to comply whereas the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) is legally binding and has been ratified by 188 countries.

Meeting challenges in implementing the Platform for Action

This review looked at challenges to implementing Platform for Action and to use opportunities to integrate a gender perspective into economic, social and environmental dimensions in the post 2015

Development Agenda Sustainable Development Goals. Subjects covered were as diverse as Violence Against Women, Women in Conflict situations, Women in Media, Political Participation, Environment, Economy, Health and Agriculture and so on. In totality, these proved to be good networking platforms where exchanges based on common interest were made and partnerships forged as well as common agendas firmed up. It was fruitful for AIWC members who wished to specialize in certain subjects such as violence, media, health etc. I personally found the areas of Media, International Networking, Conflict and Property and Land rights of particular interest.

2 seminal events on March 8th were an international Open Consultation at Athena Stadium, Harlem, where some women who have done exemplary work in their own countries were honoured. From India there was Ms. Ruchira Gupta of "Apne Aap Worldwide", and a stimulating rousing March to Times Square by hundreds of men and women from the UN Building on 1st Avenue 48th street, to 40th Street, Times Square on 8th Avenue.

On the 9th, March, the Special Session of the General Assembly was held, which we attended by turns. The lady Chair from Thailand conducted the Session where an Overview was read and statements made by participating representatives of the countries, as well as an address by Secy. General Ban Ki Moon. It is interesting to note here that a campaign was also being conducted simultaneously to elect a woman Secy. General to the UN at the next Election next year. Later country reports were read at the Trusteeship Council Hall and some targets discussed such as acts passed to monetize informal labour more strategically eg., domestic workers by the Belgian government.

For the next few days members attended many parallel events and exchanged notes in the evening. Below are some vignettes of my personal observations and interactions.

AIWC protests against attempt to malign India

Let me first discuss the Forum on Kashmir (12/3/

2015) as it was the most controversial and AIWC as a team, made a concerted statement of protest. It was organized by Kashmir Women's Forum in association with WUNRN (WOMENS UN REPORT NETWORK) and moderated by Meera Khanna, of Guild of Service.

Initially some very evocative statements were made about Women's status in Kashmir; give a Kashmiri woman a piece of cloth and she makes paradise out of it; Kashmiri women lost their paradise in 1993; undue repression; how women lose their dignity to save sons from participating in 'jihad' etc. Women's bodies become the tool of man's oppressive patriarchy. Hundreds of women who know nothing of where their husbands are called half widows. Tragically the position of these 'half widows' is double jeopardy, they were easy targets for soldiers and militants alike. General attitude of the State is that women are silent witnesses/collaborators to and of 'the terror machine and militancy' as spies, couriers, witnesses, shelter-givers. Khanna added Jihad is business in Kashmir—to counter this, one must navigate within power structures.

However after these general statements came a provocative statement made by a Pakistani Kashmiri London based activist and professional, Ms Sadia, who heaped accusations and false allegations upon the Indian government and army. There was no attempt to highlight the enormous relief effort by the central government and the entire nation after the disastrous floods last year, nor the record (65%) turn out in the last General Elections. This brought intense resistance amongst the Indian AIWC delegates and others who staged a walk-out in protest.

AIWC later submitted a letter of protest against such statements being allowed to be made from a UN sponsored Platform to the UN. Copy of the letter was submitted to the Indian Permanent Mission Rep., Mr Mayank Joshi.

AIWCs sponsored parallel event

The AIWC sponsored parallel event was on "Women and Poverty: Economic Empowerment" (12/3/2015)

hosted at the Church Center, where President Veena Kohli read out a comprehensive address along with AIWC's work and recommendations, details are given elsewhere in this issue of Roshni..

“Women's Mobilization for Gender-Egalitarian Policy Change in the 20 Years since Beijing”

The session was organized on 10th March by UNRISD in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (New York Office). The discussion aimed to support women's rights advocates was based on findings from the UNRISD research project When and Why Do States Respond to Women's Claims? Speakers included Professors Nitya Rao (University of East Anglia (UK) and Rob Jenkins of Hunter College (NYC, USA). The commitment to “eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures” was one of the central promises of the Beijing Declaration, the final report of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The lack of progress made during the twenty years since then, is sobering, they said. The project examined the structural causes of poverty and sought to develop alternatives with activists from around the world. Soroptimist International, headquartered at Cambridge, UK., also collaborated in events that discussed grassroot economic empowerment and the global environment. Zonta International headquartered in USA platformed the economy through the “10th Helvi Sipilä Seminar on Gender Power and Economy” (12/3/2015).

Women, Media and Violence

An event hosted by American Association of UN Women—on Depiction of Women in a Negative role in Media & Advertisements (11/3/2015) was also held at the Methodist Church Centre. High ups from the Media, Advertising and fashion magazines such as Cosmo, Vogue etc, engaged in a panel discussion on depiction of women in a negative role in advertising and social media. In particular pro-women statements made by second generation Indian Seema Patel of Grey Advertising were most gratifying. She said culture does not change people,

people change culture. Though one panelist said advertising has come a long way from the days of Mad Men, and many women are at senior levels, but the powerlessness to stop negative advertising is still evident. Feminist notions of American Author Naomi Wolf notions of women's beauty being dominated by male sexuality were debated upon. Colonization of the body is an increasing concern. Author Naomi Wolf had argued in Beauty Myth (1991) against the multi-billion-dollar cosmetics industry that used the idea of beauty to exploit women for their commercial benefits.

Such advertising also amplifies the role ‘power’ and ‘power structures’ play in our so called freedoms. I notice every day there is sensational rape reporting in Indian newspapers and news channels which have a tinge of voyeurism to it. Any which way—Rape Pays!! The controversial BBC aired documentary “India's Daughter” too was discussed.

Violence against Women as an offshoot of such negative advertising was hotly contested by the large audience. But as ‘X’, a male rep of the Ad Industry said—“ Were I to oppose such campaigns I would lose my job” . Finally the excuse that Ads are driven by the consumer demand were passionately rebutted by feminists, students, academics and activists Violence against Women was a matter of popular and huge concern.

One session on “Violence against Women” organized by WHO and The Global Women's Institute of the George Washington University supported by Pan American Health Organization that looked into Health Systems and Women, and was chaired by Ms. Suneeta Dhar (Jagori) took on the positive role that men can play to change cultural norms. Said Prof. Michael Flood, an internationally recognized researcher and educator based at Wollongong University, Australia, ***that involving men as partners in fighting violence against women is not as an alternative strategy that takes away from women's groups, but a co—operative strategy that works alongside.*** He addressed the rationale that men and boys have a positive role to play. He said male perspective has

shifted somewhat. The recent Delhi Symposium (2014) on engaging men and boys re-iterated the rationale that men/boys too are victims of gender violence. That to be a man means dominance and control is not driven by biological testosterone but by cultural mores enforced by media. Strategies of face to face interactions and inviting men to be bystanders were suggested by him. In addition aspects of violence such as child sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, and trafficking were also highlighted.

Gender equality issues

Later Zonta International too discussed this subject under “New Paradigm of Gender Equality Post 2015: Girls and Boys go Together” (14/3/2015) in association with Mental Health Association in Taiwan (MHAT). Interestingly the issue of domestic violence was also taken up by International Muslim Women Union and Women Aid Trust, Pakistan. They were advocating Rights of Women in Islam. In addition to the oft repeated Right to Maintenance by husband, also struggle for Right to Vote, Right to Remarry, Right to Education and Ownership of Property amongst others. In this connection can be mentioned two side events: “Participation of Women from Minorities in Public Life” (12/3/2015) by Czech Republic, Bolivia and UNFPA, and “Women in the Arab Region under the Current transitions” (12/3/2015) organized by the League of Arab States and Arab Women's Organization.

A session on “Gender based violence in Russia: Women NGO's Response” (10/3/2015) conducted by Russian NGO's with support from Heinrich Boell Foundation and Global Fund for Women. Russian women face challenges regarding justice, discriminatory policies, and lack of criminal, civil, and administrative tools for their support they said. Incidents of physical and sexual violence prevail.

Contrary Voices

On the subject of Violence against Women some contrary voices of concern were heard- that the huge protests in India and worldwide have in a way worked against women's issues as they have taken away

funding from other equally important and serious issues of labour, agriculture etc. Said Priti Darooka, ED PWESCR, “over obsession of the Women's Movement against violence” has pigeon holed the movement and taken away focus from other pressing issues of land and property rights, environment, health etc. Therefore advocacy should not aim to put all eggs in one basket or slogan.

She added that women do a lot of unpaid work which is not part of formal market compensations, including work in the whole agricultural sector and small enterprises. Categorizing domestic work as ‘Care’ becomes an obstacle in recognizing women's contribution of knowledge and skills.

Education of girls

At the Ukrainian National Women's League offices at East Village, Manhattan 5 International Organizations under one umbrella debated upon “Ensuring Education for Girls and Women and the Post 2015 Agenda” (12/3/2015). These were Federation of University Women (FUW), Zonta International, BPW International, the International Council of Women, and Soroptimist International. They collectively advocated other meetings; Soroptimist International collaborated on “Bringing an End to Sex Trafficking—We Can do It” (9/3/2015) which featured FBI Special Agent Marty Parker and “Life without Water” (9/3/2015) among others. “Living Women's Leadership, Living Global Citizenship” (13/3/2015) was co-ordinated by leading Buddhist organization Soka Gakkai International.

It is clear that if AIWC is to play a seminal role, links must be made with such international organizations so we can have a greater international presence. Networking with regional bodies such as CAPWIP—Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics, Femmes Solidaire, in addition to IAW, CFR, WEDO, etc.

After CSW 59- What?

After June, allocation of funds will be discussed and a finalization of country commitments will be made

before adoption of SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) in September. Towards this lobbying by country NGO's must continue with our respective governments so that adequate funding is ensured for continued ability to work along the lines.

It is a sad testament that usually the adoption of political goals and a Platform for Action is formalized at the end of the NGO consultations, but here it was accepted and adopted unilaterally by UN Women on 9th March itself, ie. at the beginning of the Meet. Though it must be added a Draft had been circulated earlier to NGO's and Civil Society for inputs. It left little scope for Civil Society to provide inputs at the Meet itself. For the huge numbers of NGO's this relegated the proceedings of the CSW 59 to mostly networking and less consultation, they said. Was CSW59 then just a jamboree they asked?

True, the main thrust of CSW meets has become propagation and networking, said Preeti Darooka. Even as far as advocacy went, the CSW -- where thousands of international women had collected-- to be a less profitable venue than the Human Rights Commission where proportionately only a few gather.

The political declaration's main focus was policy; endorsing and recommitting to the Beijing Platform for Action. Therefore it was assumed that the thrust

of the main sessions had already shifted to discussing strategies for financing for gender equalities where governments will commit resources for financial commitments for SDG's in June at Adis Abbaba, and adoption of SDG's in September, at New York, 2015.

Recommendations made by Dr Manju Kak (MIC) for AIWC

- AIWC must strengthen its own Research Platform if it has to adequately participate in International Networking. The findings should be shared amongst branches and MIC's for their use at Seminars, Government Consultations etc.
- Its own work --by branches--must be shared and documented adequately
- Some core thrust areas need to be identified for the next 5 years and worked on aside from Violence—eg. Land, agriculture, farmers rights etc.
- Networking with other national and international NGO's at Head Office should be made a permanent department and strengthened.

It was however a very satisfying meet and a lot was learnt and friends made till the next generation takes over in 2030 for Planet 50=50.

In Fond Remembrance

- Veena Kohli



The AIWC family, assembled at Vadodara for the Annual Conference, woke up to a dark dawn on 20th February. Our dear sister Smt Krishna (Kiran) Sharma expired of heart attack. Cheerful happy-go-lucky Kiran was Member-in-Charge, Estates, (earlier, she was Vice- President). The shock was all the greater because on the first 2 days, 18th and 19th she participated in the Conference with her usual zest.

We mourn the loss of a generous, affectionate AIWC family member.

Kiran- true to your name, you shone brightly to the end.

“ Shama jalti hai har rang men sahar hone tak....”

Musings on a Woman - oriented UN Meet

- Smt. Bhavatarini, WIA, Chennai

Arriving at New York, our first step was to assemble at the UN Headquarters on 7th March morning, have documents verified and get the Ground Pass. We met our UN representative Mrs Sudha Acharya, were briefed about programs, and received entry passes for events and receptions.

Later on we moved in groups, some opting to pay respects to the departed souls at the Twin Towers site. I was sad and dispirited till I saw an engraving on a wall, " MAY WE NEVER FORGET ", which inspired me to take photos.

On the morning of 8th, while the registered delegates left for programs, Ms. Manju Kak, Ms. Lata Sina and I left for the glorious " March in March " of Beijing+ 20, from 47th street to Times Square, braving the cold weather! It was an experience! So many people of different age groups, from different countries, ethnic groups along with the famous NY Police as security. The rainbow of people gathered for one cause is a nostalgic memory now! Later we met to finalize the next day's program and decided that the President and Dr. Vijeyalakshmi, would go first to the General Assembly, and the passes would be used in turns by all.

On 9th, and after attending the General Assembly, Ms. Jyotika and I left for CCUN, to attend the event on " Ensuring that Courts Do Not Re-Victimize : Making Beijing's Commitments a Reality ". A very meaningful session, and both of us interacted with the speakers (Judge Patricia of NY) and other delegates from Cornell Law School and International Association of Women Judges.

Later I attended " Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy " a program on Women's Sustainable Economy and Human Rights at CCUN, followed by a very inspiring program on " Adolescent Girls: The Promise of Beijing, by the International Center for Research on Women and Advocates for Youth " . I was able to draw some parallel and

similarities to my ongoing " Orientation & Youth Empowerment Program " in schools, in Chennai. Evening was the time to attend the Armenian Street Reception. There was wide appreciation for Ruchira Gupta for her daring work for the betterment of women and children.

On 10th Morning, we went in different directions for different events. Morning saw me in a Spiritual Program, to promote spiritual power and process of change to overcome fear and violence at CCUN. Later I moved to a breakthrough session on Empowering Youth Leadership in the Movement to End Violence against Women at CCUN Chapel. There is so much to learn and so much to share, from similar situations and programs. Afternoon I was happy to attend " Advocacy Training : New NGOs, " conducted by NGO CSW/NY @ CCUN Drew Hall. It was mind spinning, almost too much for the brain!

On 11th morning, I accompanied our President and Treasurer to the session on The Empowerment Of Women in Political, Economical and Social fields at ACC, where Ms. Pam Rajput ,(Chairperson, High Level Committee of the Status of Women, India) was one of the speakers. From ACC to CCUN building we were driven by a NY cabbie who literally took us for a ride via Queens! I attended a meaningful session on Climate Change. Then the Tzu Chu Foundation, gave an inspiring example of women's saving ability! This was the only organization which emailed thanks for our participation! Something to be learnt and adopted!

On 12th, ventured out to General Assembly, to a UN Women program by the famous Sarah Jones, Jane Fonda, Yasmeen Hassan, (Global Executive Director, Equality Now) and Lakshmi Puri, Asst. Secretary -General of UN, on Arts Advocacy Campaign to end Sex Discriminatory laws. Wow! This was the highlight of the entire visit.. What a live performance by Sarah Jones! A celebrity with no airs!

Through mono-acting, she presented case studies, and letters of victims, not surprising that she won our hearts and was given a standing ovation! The applause was for full 2 minutes after which, with joy and tears, she said softly with a crack in her voice, "Thank you". I thought, "It's we who should be saying thank you, for bringing all those unknown persons before us!" The magnetic vibration of energy from her presentation, sent me running to take more photos, before security whisked her away.

We gathered later in the basement, to proceed to CCUN for the AIWC event on Women and Poverty-Economic Empowerment. Kudos to Sudha Acharya, thanks to her organizing skills, it was a well-attended, successful program.

On Friday the 13th, many went to a morning briefing for NGOs, and I moved to Intergenerational Dialogue, a program by gender equality advocates and then to a session on "Participation in

Parliaments and Governments", a much needed program. In the Thailand program on Gender Equality, I mentioned the counselling done in our school program, which was appreciated. What I learnt from them was the importance given to sports to promote gender sensitization and leadership. I mentally pictured our schools, with no play ground or games, with no/ non functional toilets and no drinking water and felt sad. Will our school children ever get the basic amenities, before we talk of sports and leadership?

In the evening I was met by my family friends, who took me to Ganesha Temple in Flushing, NY, followed by dinner and then to home in Stamford, Ct. The week end was rainy and I rested amidst the pampering of love, care and Indian food before being sent off at JFK. After a delayed journey, I reached my wonderful, blissful, hot Chennai.

Thanks to one and all for enabling my participation in UN, post Beijing meet, making my dream a reality!

Nutritian Tips

Fine dining with bajra and bathua

- Manu Chandra

It's about time millets found their way back to our dining tables and lunch-boxes.

Some bajra flour mixed into the atta for rotis is an excellent idea; your source of iron is guaranteed, especially if you have older folks or kids at home. Readymade uthappam and dosa batter can be given a twist with some ragi or jowar flour. Besides being nutritive powerhouses, they taste delicious.

Make your own muesli. Take oats, white sesame seeds, wheat germ, ragi flakes, almonds. Kashmiri walnuts, some good honey and anything else that gets your fancy; dry them together in a very low oven overnight and store in an airtight jar. Pour milk and a great breakfast is ready in no time.

Get some balance - While moderation is key, rich diets with leafy greens at the table. Instead of paneer tikka, try making paneer kebabs with chopped methi leaves, fresh ajwain leaves and chickpea flour.

Cola to kokum - It's recognized globally now that processed sugar is a bigger enemy than fat. Yet we keep our fridges loaded with fizzy drinks. Try kokum, aam panna and thandai to imli, rhododendron and jamun juice. As for sweets, make cookies with jaggery, brown sugar, jowar, nuts and dates.

(From Times of India)

The Way There

My eyes have only seen a few years of life
 But they ache to see the future
 I'm walking slowly across a bridge
 Hoping I won't tip over, hoping the end is a sight worth waiting for
 But this bridge gives me uneasiness
 Uneasiness felt as I toss and turn at nights
 Wondering who my future lies in the hands of
 All of these friends I have now,
 Like charms I collect for my charm bracelet
 I just want to know if they'll stay
 Or if I'll have to choose between them and success



Riya Berry

I look around the world, at the people I'm supposed to look up to
 And the people who are supposed to be my equals
 And I see in their hearts a yearning for a hand to grasp in their own
 We all chase after success, like its a flag of glory
 But when you finally catch the flag,
 And raise it up high
 When you embrace the feel
 Of sweat kissing your skin
 Whats the use if you have no one to raise it with you?
 The higher we rise to success, the more we distance ourselves from the ones we love

Yet as you approach the end to this winding road we call life
 You begin to understand that we're all alone
 Striving to reach the top, to catch that flag
 But everyone needs a hand to hold on the way there

Someone to tell stories to
 Someone who, despite knowing everything about you, still stays with you
 Someone who can never say I love you to your face
 Only through taunts and insults
 Someone who understands where you came from and where you are going
 Someone who is the only reason there's a smile on your face
 Someone who is the only reason that you are excited for tomorrow

Everyone needs that someone
 Or one or two, or however many more
 That someone is what makes the way there
 A beautiful one

(Riya Berry, Age 15 years, 9th class student, Palo Alto, USA)

Branch Activities

Bangalore Branch : Two Parenting Workshops were held in November 2014. Participants-79 on 15th and 61 on 25th, total 140. The target group were parents of children in the age group 3 to 10 years on 15th, and of children 11 years to 16 years on 25th, from schools in Jayanagar, Bangalore. Growing process of a child, and types of parenting were presented and discussed. The resource persons were Dr Rajaram Subbiah, Dept of Neurology, NIMHANS, and Dr Prakash Rajaram, Professor, NIMHANS.

In the first interactive sessions, participants introduced themselves, and mentioned one positive trait as parents, in the next session, they were divided into groups and enacted different types of parenting. Resource persons evaluated the parenting types and gave some positive suggestions such as : spend quality time with the child, believe in the child, appreciate, uniqueness, listen, make the child know that life has shades of grey, express yourself, share happy memories and challenging events, avoid arguments and fighting, explain and reason out, set rules & limits, discriminate between what should be ignored and what should be corrected.

The session ended with thanks by Smt. Nalinakshi, Patron, on Nov 15th and by Ashitha, Jt. Secy, AIWC on 25th Nov.

Amitha Anand, Secretary

Batala Branch : The main branch is running the following permanent projects :

Computer Center, Art & Craft, Skin Care Center, Cutting & Tailoring, Family Counseling

Highlights of our activities during 2014 were that in addition to the celebration of International Days such as Womens Day, Teachers Day, World Peace Day, Gandhi Jayanti, and festivals, we organized health and awareness camps on a variety of health issues. These were attended by large numbers of families who received free medicines and tonics.

Seminars and Workshops included: # Climate Change Advocacy 2 day Workshop, August, Seminar on Dealing with Problem of Stray Dogs. September # Awareness Camp for HIV Aids and Drugs, October # Seminar on Legal Awareness for Women, Suvidha Centre, November # Women Entrepreneurs Development Training, December, also Clean India Campaigns and rallies/processions on topical subjects from time to time.

Mrs Prakash Kaur Naroo, President, AIWC Batala

Chennai Branch : Apoorva Women's Association a branch of WIA Chennai celebrated 20th anniversary on 31st January, 2015.

The leading charitable association works for the welfare of special children, orphans and needy persons. They are educating over forty slum children every year.

Cancer detection camp alongwith RNP polythene care conducted at Vengal village. Other awareness programs were for free legal guidance, solving women related problems and adolescent issues and how to approach the police.

Three tricycles were donated to physically challenged persons and four sewing machines to needy women, uniforms to the children of leprosy affected parents and free spectacles. Mrs. Radha Krishnamoorthy, President welcomed the gathering.

Mrs. Radha Mukundan, Secretary gave the report and Mrs. Shantha Pillai gave vote of thanks.

Radha Krishnamurthi, President

Delhi Women's League : Our permanent projects include - 1. Sponsoring the tuition fees of four under privileged children every month. 2. Helping the terminal cancer patients of Shanti Awedana Sadan (for last 10 years) with rations, fruits, juices, cotton bundles, gauze bandages etc. 3. Relief material to the burn and cancer patients of Safdarjung Dharamshala and through one of our sponsors we have arranged twenty thousand rupees worth of medicines for the patients, every month. 4. Providing study material for the students of our adopted school for underprivileged children in Khor Gaon. 5. Say no to plastic bags-visit every month to sabzi mandi's of Gobindpuri and Malavia Nagar to create awareness through counselling, suggestions and by distributing free cloth bags. 6. Stitching and tailoring started by us at Sunlite Colony are running nicely for the last five years.

Project Started in 2014 are - 1. Beauty culture training and counselling centre at our adopted school in Sunlite Colony, 28 girls are being trained in the first batch. 2. Providing two wheel chairs to the disabled patients of Safdarjung dharamshala. 3. Sponsored one lunch every month for 200 inmates of Guru Vridh Vishram Ashram, Alipur Gaon, Badarpur. 4. Distributed 50 blankets to the needy people in the month of January 2015. 5. Helping three poor girls who are doing class 12 through open school, financial and with tuition. 6. Help worth Rs. 15,000/- for the marriage of a poor girl. 7. House hold utensils worth Rs. 5000/- sent for the flood victims of Kashmir. 8. Organized on the spot painting competition for the hearing impaired students of deaf and dumb school

in Kalkaji. 9. Organized Diwali mela stall for 400 school children of resettlement colonies of Madangir and Dakshin puri run by Don Bosco School in Alaknanda.

Asha Bhatia, Secretary

Imphal, Manipur Branch : The day care centre for senior women started from 1st August 2014 at premises of our association at Moirangkhom Bokul Makhong. Imphal. 15 aged women above 60 years of age were selected and enlisted at the day care centre on the basis of our survey of the surrounding areas. These beneficiaries attended the centre daily from 10 am to 5 pm in summer and in winter 10 am to 4 pm.

Activities undertaken - 1. Agarbatti making (cotton wicks) cotton and bamboo sticks (as used in arati) and garland making of fresh flowers or cutting thread. Some of them earned their own pocket money from such work. Dr. Madhubala Devi visited every fortnight of the month. Two cases referred to Dr. Nelanjini Devi for Gynae problem. 2. Singing of bhajan & sankritana are usual daily programme at their parting time as most of them know how to sing. Ph. Shanti Devi MSW. Principal Anganwadi training centre, unit-3, visited once a month for conversation and sometimes counselling. The aged women enjoyed talking to a younger person.

One day outing to the places of pilgrimage were arranged. Awareness camps were held for anemia detection, disaster preparedness, human rights and legal awareness.

At Kaina Mandir they saw the sacred jack fruit tree from which Govindajee and other statues are made by the artisans. The tradition is traced back to the 18th century Maharaja Bheigyachandra who had a dream directing him to take up the carving work.

Indraprastha Women's Development Council :

The council has been running following programmes on regular basis. 1. A school by the name "Ekta Balwadi" for the under privileged children. 2. Skin and hair care, beautician course at Craft Centre. 3. Garment making, needle work and embroidery course at Craft Centre. 4. SWAYAM known yourself: a life skill development programme for adolescent girls of low income group sponsored by AIWC. 5. IWDC conducted a full day awareness programme on Save Your Environment sponsored by AIWC,

During 2014 we held many educational programmes for our members. Eminent personalities from the concerned fields and our own members conducted lectures on various topics like table etiquette, dementia, medical management, summer cool drinks etc.

Sushma Jindal, Secretary

Rajkot Branch : AIWC Rajkot and West Zone B:

International Girl Child day was celebrated by several constituent branches and main branch. Activities included competitions for poster making, painting, debates etc. A large number of childrens rallies were organized. There was a Community Health Awareness camp at Rajkot on 21st January. Dr Mauli Ganatra, Dr Bhavana Joshipura, Dr Urja Mankad and others spoke on health issues, this was followed by a lively, question and answer session and discussions.

Dr Bhavna Joshipura, Zonal Organizer, West Zone-B

SWEDWAs Sixteenth birthday : South-West Delhi Womens Association, branch of AIWC celebrated its 16th year on 17th January, on a festive occasion held in Carmel School for Girls in Anand Niketan.

There was large gathering of AIWC/ SWEDWA members, distinguished invitees and students.

Pushpanjali, offering of flowers, was danced by Natasha, a Russian Bharata natyam artiste . Mrs Veena Kohli, Mrs Asha Gambhir, and Mrs Amreswari Morla inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp, and addressed the gathering. Vandana Chouhan, Secretary, SWEDWA gave a power point presentation summing up the work done over the years. Presidents of SWEDWA affiliated branches narrated their activities. Janaki Rajaram, President, SWEDWA, narrated its story from small beginnings to the present network of 8 branches, and multifarious activities. Mrs Mythily Jagannathan, Treasurer gave the Vote of thanks.

The cultural events included a skit on changing social status of women presented by Carmel school, Dwarka, street play on empowered woman by Palam group, dramatic skit on violence against women by Asmita group, and dances by students.

The program culminated in cutting of the birthday cake by Mrs Veena Kohli, and a sweet good-bye to all!

Janaki Rajaram, President

Trivandrum Branch : During the period we conducted the following:

1. Adolescent programme
 2. One day awareness programme-3
 3. "Asraya"- The Day care centre for elderly with 45 members
- Apart from the routine activities, several special programmes were held in Asraya celebrating Onam, International Elders Day, musical evening, and a pilgrimage to temple towns.

- Programmes on climate change were:

 1. Regional Work shop on "Climate Change Advocacy" sponsored by "Women in Europe for a Common Future"
 2. Follow up of the Regional Workshop
 3. "Energy Clinic Volunteer's Training" at Kollam district sponsored by EMC under Govt of Kerala.

Reducing the emission of CO₂ is the most effective strategy to minimise Climate Change and Energy Programmes have a big role to play in this .

"Energy Clinic"- is a programme included in the "State Plan of Action for Climate Change" prepared by the Government of Kerala. To implement this programme EMC (Energy Management Centre under Govt. of Kerala) is planning to train a number of women as Energy Clinic Volunteers who are expected to visit the households and impart the awareness on Conservation of Energy and to popularise renewable energy like Solar Energy.

Appreciating the Energy Awareness programmes

conducted by us in all the districts of Kerala last year, EMC has authorized to conduct Energy Clinic Volunteers Training in all the districts with financial and technical support from them.

As per this project 50 eligible women with commitment to the cause, are to be selected from each district and one-day training programme is to be arranged. The resource persons from EMC will be conducting the classes. After the training , each trainee is to visit at least 30 houses or more per month and impart awareness on conservation of Energy . data will be collected for EMC. For each household visit the trainee will be paid Rs 20/- . This is also an income generating programme also for women .

This programme is to be conducted in all the districts of Kerala. The first programme was successfully conducted on 12/11/2014 with 45 trainees. The remaining districts will be covered before March 31st 2015.

Indira Ramakrishna Pillai, President

Useful Tips : Care of artificial jewellery

- Avoid spraying deodorant/perfume on the jewellery while getting ready.
- After removing your jewellery, store it in a soft zip up pouch so that dust doesn't easily get to it. Don't use tissues to cover them as they might cause scratches.
- Do not wear your jewellery while taking a shower.
- If you have to clean your jewellery, try and use only warm water. Clean your jewellery with a soft cloth and mild detergent with warm water if required.
- Don't clean any jewellery piece that is broken or damaged since cleaning it might damage it more.
- Inspect your jewellery at regular intervals to ensure that it isn't tarnished.

(Delhi Times)

Branch Activities through pictures



Skill training camp for girls in Sunlite colony by Delhi Womens League



Shobha Lal, President Gurgaon Grameen Mandal distributes certificates at Skill Tarning camp



International Womens Day celebrated in Greater Noida District Jail, Human Touch Foundation, President Upasana Singh



Enacting role of parents at Bangalore workshop



Effective Parenting workshop by AIWC Bangalore



Nanthencode Vanitha Samajam - Celebrating Sarojini Naidu's Birthday



Childrens Golden Dreams- prize-winning painting in competition organised by AIWC Mumbai, in Street Children project.

माचो पीचो एवं कॉस्को

- कुमकुम नारायण



माचो पीचो के अवशेष संसार के सात आश्चर्यों में एक है। ये खंडर इन्का सभ्यता का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं जो सोलवीं शताब्दी से १००० वर्ष पूर्व एंडीज पर्वत में बस गए। ये प्राचीन सभ्यता स्पनिशों के आने के बाद खत्म हो गयी; कहीं कहीं एंडीज के पहाड़ों पर अभी भी इन्का के वंशज पाये जाते हैं। इस सभ्यता की विशेषता है कि ये अपने ज़माने के बहुत बुद्धिमान और विकसित समुदाय के थे। इन्का सभ्यता का कोई लिखित ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज़ नहीं है किन्तु पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी चर्चित कहानियों में इनके विकसित ज्ञान का उल्लेख मिलता है जो पूरी तरह वैज्ञानिक रूप से भी प्रमाणित हो चुकी है। इनकी भाषा केचुआन थी जो अभी भी एंडीज पर्वत में प्रचलित है। इन्का कहाँ से आये इसका कोई पता नहीं है। खैर जहाँ से भी आये इन्होंने एंडीज पर्वत कि पूर्वी ढाल पर जंगलों को पार कर ७३०० फ़ीट कि ऊँचाई पर अपनी पहली बस्ती माचो पीचो बसाई। यहाँ पर सालों भर हलकी बारिश होती है। बाद में ये एंडीज पर्वत पर फैलते गए और करीब करीब दक्षिण अमेरिका के अंतिम छोर तक पहुँच गए।

इन्का बहुत गुनी थे। ये स्थानीय पत्थरों से ही घर बनाते थे। ये मिट्टी के पकाये हुए ईंटों का प्रयोग नहीं करते थे। ये पत्थरों को

इस तरह विभिन्न आकर में काटते एवं तराशते थे कि एक दुसरे में पत्थर बिना किसी सीमेंट या चूने के लीगो की तरह बैठ जाते थे। इन पत्थरों की दीवारें इतनी मजबूत हैं कि इतने भूकम्प और तूफ़ान आने के बाद भी अभी तक यथावत हैं। ये पत्थरों को किस यन्त्र या तकनीक से काटते थे, ये किसी को पता नहीं है। इन्का के घरों में दरवाज़ों में चौखट और कपाट नहीं होते थे और घर पूरी तरह खुले होते थे। दरवाज़े नीचे कम चौड़े और ऊपर ज़्यादा चौड़े होते थे। खिड़कियां नीचे अधिक और ऊपर कम चौड़ी होती थीं। इस तरह यह रचना पत्थरों को इस तरह संतुलन करती थी कि दीवारें किसी तरह का झटका बर्दाश्त कर सकें। इसलिए ये अभी तक अपने मूल रूप में हैं। एंडीज पर्वत पर पानी कि कमी थी। इसलिए इन्का लोग ग्लेशियर और वर्षा का पानी व्यापार में लाते थे। पत्थरों में नालियां खोद कर ये पत्थरों के हौदे में पानी जमा करते थे अतः इनका जल प्रवाह का तरीका बहुत विकसित था। इनके घरों के छत शायद अभी की तरह पुआल और पत्तों के बने होते थे। ये पहाड़ों के ढाल पर सीढ़ीनुमा घर बनाते थे। सबसे ऊपर राजा या सबसे महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति का घर होता था, उसके नीचे अन्य लोग ओहदे के अनुसार रहते थे। सबके घर एक दुसरे से सटे होते थे। इन्का लोग हमेशा समूह में ही रहते थे।

वे पत्थरों को तराशने के अलावे खेती, बुनाई, कपड़े बनाना, धातु गलाना और जानवर पालना जानते थे। इन्का लोगों को धातुओं की बहुत पहचान थी। वे लोहा, ताम्बा, पीतल, चांदी और सोने का प्रयोग औजार बर्तन और आभूषण बनाने के लिए करते थे। इनके पास भूगर्भ में सोने की खाने परिक्षण करने की कला थी; अतः वे सोने का प्रयोग बृहत् रूप से करते

थे. ये पूरे शरीर के लिए सोने के बड़े बड़े आभूषण बनाते थे. कुछ आभूषण अभी भी लीमा और कॉस्को के म्यूजियम में प्रदर्शित हैं. कहा जाता है कि जब स्पेनिश पेरू आये तो इन्का से उन्होंने आलू और सोने के आदान प्रदान किया. इनका भोजन के लिए आलू और स्पेनिश उतनी ही मात्रा में सोना पाकर खुश थे. धातु के आलावा इन्का एंडीज के स्थानीय बकरे अल्पाका के बाल से ऊन निकाल कर कपड़े बनाते थे. अल्पाका उनका भोजन भी था. एंडीज पर्वत कि घांस अल्पाका बकरे का सम्पूर्ण भोजन है. माचो पीचो में बसने के बाद इन्का एंडीज के ऊपरी भागों में बढ़ने लगे. इनका दूसरा बड़ा पड़ाव ९३०० फीट कि ऊंचाई पर कॉस्को हुआ. बीच में छोटी छोटी कई बस्तियां बसाई. कॉस्को शहर बहुत विकसित तकनीक से बनाया गया जो इन्का की राजधानी बना. बाद में कॉस्को शहर पूरे दक्षिण अमेरिका की भी राजधानी बना. कॉस्को वास्तव में क्रेटर का झील था. झील सूखने पर ये जगह इन्का को बहुत पसंद आई और उन्होंने इसको बहुत शौख से सुन्दर इमारतें बना कर बसाया. कॉस्को में सुन्दर महल, जनता दरबार और अन्य प्रशासिक इमारतें हैं. कॉस्को की इमारतें और सड़कें उसी पत्थर की तकनीक से बने हैं. कॉस्को में जब स्पेनिश आये तब उन्होंने इन्का द्वारा निर्मित महलों को तोड़ कर अपना महल बनाने की चेष्टा की. वे इन दीवारों को नहीं तोड़ सके. तब उन्होंने इन पत्थरों के ऊपर छत ढाल कर अपने महलों का निर्माण किया. किन्तु स्पेनिश के तकनीक में वो बारीकी और मजबूती नहीं थी जो इन्का के वास्तु कला में थी. स्पेनिश ने दरवाज़ों पर चौखठ लगाने की चेष्टा की किन्तु विफल रहे. पेरू सरकार ने भी इन भवनों और सड़कों को यथावत रहने दिया है, केवल सड़कों में यातायात संकेत लगा दिए हैं. पेरू सरकार द्वारा इन इमारतों की सुरक्षा एवं देखरेख प्रशंसनीय हैं.

इन्का लोग बहुत शान्ति प्रिये समुदाय थे. सूर्य को वो अपना

भगवान मानते थे और पूर्व दिशा की ओर से अपना सब काम आरम्भ करते थे. उनके घरों के खिड़की दरवाज़े पूर्व दिशा में खुलते थे. वे खिड़कियों को इस तरह बनाते थे कि सूर्य कि किरणे कमरे में आ सके. वे कमरों में खिड़की के सामने बर्तन में पानी रखते थे और उसमें सूर्य का बिम्ब देखते थे. सूर्य कि किरणों के माध्यम से वे समय का अंदाज़ करते थे इसलिए उन्हें सौर कला का विस्तृत ज्ञान था. उनके लिए २१ जून सबसे महत्वपूर्ण दिन होता था उस दिन से सूर्य दक्षिणायन होने लगता है और दिन की लम्बाई बढ़ने लगती है. उनका विश्वास था कि सूर्य भगवान खुश हो गए हैं इसलिए दिन लम्बे कर रहे हैं. वे जानवरों की बलि चढ़ाते थे. इन्का अपने स्वास्थ्य पर भी बहुत ध्यान देते थे. वे अच्छा भोजन करते और खुली हवा में रहना पसंद करते थे. उनका विश्वास था कि मजबूत होने के लिए उपयुक्त मात्रा में आराम की ज़रूरत है इसलिए वे पूरे १२ घंटे विश्राम करते थे. साथ ये अच्छे स्वास्थ्य के लिए यौन सम्बन्ध पर बहुत ध्यान देते थे.

अपने गुणों एवं बल के कारण इन्का करीब करीब पूरे दक्षिण अमेरिका में फैल गए थे. एक समय ऐसा था कि पूरे दक्षिण अमेरिका कि राजधानी कॉस्को नगर था. सत्रवीह शताब्दी में स्पेनिश लोगों के आने पर इन्का लोगों का विलुप्त होने लगे. स्पेनिश से इनका कभी कोई युद्ध नहीं हुआ किन्तु स्पेनिश धीरे धीरे इनको मारते गए और अपना आधिपत्य ज़माने लगे. इस तरह इनका सभ्यता के अवशेष पूरे प्रमाण के साथ अभी भी जीवित हैं.



रसोई के चमत्कार लाए सेहत में सुधार

– पूर्णिमा भार्गव

आइए बहनों आपको ले चलते हैं रसोई में जहां छुपा है सेहत को ठीक रखने का खजाना जो कि एक चमत्कार से कम नहीं है।

अजवाइन –

1. सर्दी जुकाम में अजवाइन गर्म करके पतले कपड़े में बांधकर सूँघें।
2. पेट में गैस होने पर अजवाइन पीस कर काले नमक के साथ लेने के बाद गुनगुना पानी पीने से आराम मिलेगा।
3. सूखी खांसी : अजवाइन को पान के पत्त के साथ खाने से आराम मिलता है।
4. पेट में कीड़े : छाछ में अजवाइन मिला कर पीने से पेट के कीड़े मरेंगे।

काली मिर्च –

1. बवासीर : काली मिर्च 20 ग्राम, जीरा 10 ग्राम, शक्कर या मिश्री 15 ग्राम पीसकर मिला लें व सुबह एक चम्मच फांकें।
2. फुंसी : फुंसी उठते ही काली मिर्च पानी में घिस कर लेप करें, ठीक होगी।
3. नेत्र ज्योति : काली मिर्च का 1/2 चम्मच चूर्ण थोड़े घी या मक्खन के साथ प्रतिदिन खाने से ज्योति बढ़ेगी।
4. कफ खांसी : काली मिर्च का चूर्ण शहद में मिलाकर चाटें, जमा हुआ कफ बाहर निकलता है। दमा रोग में भी आराम मिलता है।

काला नमक –

1. गैस का प्रकोप होने पर पिसा काला नमक 1/2 छोटा चम्मच थोड़े गुनगुने पानी के साथ फांकने से पेट की वायु निकल जाती है।
2. काले नमक का छोटा टुकड़ा मुह में रख कर चूसने से गले में फंसा कफ निकल जाता है व खांसी में आराम मिलता है।

राई –

1. लकवे में राई के तेल की मालिश लाभदायक होती है।
2. पसली का दर्द, निमोनिया, पेट के रोगों में राई पीस कर लेप करने से फायदा होता है। एक चम्मच पिसी राई गर्म करके पसली पर बुरक दें।

इलायची –

1. मुख की दुर्गन्ध दूर होती है।
2. कफयुक्त खांसी होने पर छोटी इलायची पीसकर चूर्ण दिन में तीन बार लें।
3. छोटी इलायची के चूर्ण के साथ काली मिर्च का चूर्ण मिलाकर लिया जाए तो टाइफाइड में फायदा होता है।
4. जी मिचलाना व घबराहट दूर होती है।

लौंग –

1. तेज सिर दर्द में लौंग को पानी में घिसकर कनपटी पर लेप करने से आराम मिलेगा।
2. गले की सूजन में लौंग भूनकर चूसें।
3. हिचकी बंद न हो तो दो-तीन लौंग चबाकर पानी पी लें।
4. लौंग के तेल की मालिश करने से कमर, गठिया, जोड़ों का दर्द कम होता है।
5. दांत के दर्द में लौंग का तेल लगाएं या लौंग दांत के बीच में दबा लें।
6. जुकाम होने पर 5 लौंग पानी में आधा रहने तक उबालें व छान कर पी लें।

हींग –

1. शिशु के पेट में गैस बनने पर हींग को पानी में घोलकर नाभि के चारों तरफ लेप करें।
2. काला नमक, हींग गरम पानी में डालकर कुल्ला करने से दांतों का दर्द खतम होता है।

3. घाव सड़ गया हो तो नीम की पत्तियां हींग के साथ घिसकर लेप करें।
4. दाद, खाज, खुजली में हींग का घोल लगाएं।
5. हिस्टीरिया में रोगी मूर्छा हींग सुंघाने से शीघ्र टूट जाती है।
6. बिच्छू के काटे अंग पर हींग को दूध में घिसकर लेप करें।
7. पेट में दर्द हो तो अजवाइन, नमक के साथ हींग का सेवन करें।

जीरा -

1. जीरा तथा सेंधा नमक बारीक पीसकर मंजन करने से दांत व मसूड़े मजबूत होते हैं व मुंह की बदबू जाती है।
2. भुना जीरा, काला नमक, सूखा पुदीना समान मात्रा में छछ में डाल कर पीने से पेट के विकार दूर होते हैं।
3. मलेरिया में जीरे का गुड़ के साथ सेवन करने से लाभ होगा।
4. जीरे व सौंठ का चूर्ण 1-1 ग्राम सुबह शाम शहद के साथ चाटने से खांसी में राहत मिलती है।
5. माँ के स्तनों में पर्याप्त दूध न उतरता हो तो जीरा मिश्री समान मात्रा में पीसकर ठंडे पानी से सुबह शाम दें।

धनिया -

1. धनिया व मिश्री बराबर मात्रा में लें, खट्टी डकार, जी मिचलाना, एसिडिटी में लाभ होगा।
2. धनिया पानी में उबाल कर छान कर पिएं, बुखार उतरेगा व गला ठीक होगा।
3. हरा धनिया पीसकर लगाएं मस्से झड़ जाएंगे।
4. हरा धनिया पीसकर लगाने से झाड़ियां खतम होंगी।

हल्दी -

1. खांसी होने पर हल्दी भून कर पीस लें व पानी के साथ लें।
2. चोट लगने पर साफ पानी से धोकर हल्दी भर दें।

3. सर्दी जुकाम में एक प्याला दूध में एक चम्मच हल्दी डालकर उबाल लें व शक्कर मिलाकर पी लें।
4. चोट लगी हुई जगह पर पिसी हल्दी में कोई भी तेल मिलाकर दिन में तीन बार लगाएं।
5. दमे के रोगी को दूध में हल्दी मिलाकर सुबह शाम पिलाएं।

सौंफ -

1. सौंफ और मिश्री सम भाग लेकर पीसलें। 10 ग्राम सुबह शाम पानी के साथ फांकने से धीरे-धीरे नेत्र ज्योति बढती है।
2. सौंफ को घी में भूनकर पीस लें। बराबर मिश्री पीस दें-दोनों चीजें 1-1 चम्मच सुबह, दोपहर, शाम ठंडे पानी से लें। आंवयुक्त दस्त ठीक होगा।

जायफल -

1. जायफल खाने से नींद अच्छी आती है।
2. बच्चों को ठंड लगने पर दूध में जायफल घिसकर दें।
3. जोड़ों का दर्द, हाई बी.पी., डायरिया में लाभदायक है।

दालचीनी -

1. रोज 1/2 चम्मच दालचीनी डायबटीज में ब्लड शुगर कंट्रोल करती है।
2. जोड़ों का दर्द, अकड़न, यूरिन, इन्फेक्शन, मसूड़ों के दर्द में आराम मिलता है।

सौंठ -

1. शरीर में सूजन हो तो सौंठ खाएं।
2. जोड़ों के दर्द में सौंठ खाने से आराम मिलता है।
3. कमर दर्द, कंधे का दर्द, घुटने का दर्द सौंठ का नियमित सेवन करने से दूर होगा।
4. सौंठ का काढ़ा बनाकर पीने से गठिया दूर होता है।

खटाई -

1. बरैया के काटने पर काटी हुई जगह पर पानी मिलाकर लगाएं।

ये तुमने क्या किया ?

– गोमती नायर

हसते हसते आ गया दो दिन साथ निभाया।
 सबको प्यार दिया प्रेम दिया।
 किसको पता था तुम छोड़कर चली जाओगी।
 अरे प्यारी बहन तुम तो सबको दुख में डुबोकर चली गयी।
 पर तुम तो बड़ी भाग्यशाली हो।
 क्योंकि सबके साथ नृत्य करके दुनिया से विदा लिया।
 सुबह के ब्रह्म मुहूर्त में प्यारी धरती की गोद में।
 'अम्मा गारू' बोल के श्वास छोड़ा।
 हमारी प्रार्थना नारायण-नारायण सुनके विदा लिया।
 जिन्दा रहोगी तुम हमारे दिलों में सदा।
 नमस्ते प्यारी बेटी 'किरण' हम तुमको कभी भूलेंगे नहीं।
 अन्तिम प्रणाम तुम्हारे लिए।

क्या आप जानते हैं

- ☛ समाचार पत्र का अविष्कार 10वीं सदी में इटली के वेनिस शहर में हुआ।
- ☛ टेलीविजन का अविष्कार 1926 में इंग्लैण्ड में हुआ।
- ☛ अंतरिक्ष युग का आरम्भ 1957 में हुआ था।
- ☛ टेलीविजन भारत में पहली बार 1952 में आया पर सार्वजनिक 1976 में हुआ था।
- ☛ फ्रांस विश्व का एकमात्र ऐसा देश है जहां मच्छर नहीं पाये जाते।
- ☛ हिमालय पर गैस नामक वृक्ष है जिससे रात में प्रकाश निकलता है।
- ☛ विश्व में सबसे ज्यादा समाचार अमेरिका से निकलते हैं।
- ☛ संसार का सबसे बड़ा सिनेमाघर राक्सी न्यूयार्क में है।
- ☛ विश्व का सबसे लम्बा प्लेटफार्म खड़गपुर में है।
- ☛ झींगा मछली के खून का रंग नीला होता है।
- ☛ अमेरिका में पाये जाने वाला पक्षी 'नाइप' की बोली बहुत सुन्दर होती है पर वह स्वर कंठ से नहीं पंख से निकलता है।
- ☛ पक्षियों में सबसे अधिक उम्र गिद्ध की होती है।

(प्रेम दुग्गल, अमृतसर शाखा)

शिक्षा

– उषा यादव

काफी अरसे से यह सुनने और देखने में आ रहा है कि शिक्षा सर्वसाधारण के लिये उपलब्ध है। इसे एक अभियान या Campaign का रूप दिया गया है और Title है, सर्वशिक्षा अभियान Actually शिक्षा as such is a very wide term which includes all the big branches of study and faculties.

सच कहें तो शिक्षा तो जिन्दगी, जिन्दगियों, युगों और युगान्तरों तक भी चलती रहे तो भी कोई व्यक्ति Perfect नहीं हो सकता। कारण इसकी विशालताओं Human Brain की लघुता और तो और यदि कोई व्यक्ति किसी Particular Subject में महारत हासिल करना चाहे और वह भी पूरी तरह से तो यह केवल myth हो सकता है, सत्य नहीं कारण साफ है। उसी विषय में निरन्तर Sub-subject नई खोजें, नये-नये अविष्कार, विचार व Other Techniques का जुड़ जाना। फिर कैसे यह सम्भव है कि कोई व्यक्ति किसी खास विद्या का पूर्ण ज्ञात होता है, नहीं। महज M.A., Ph.D., D.Lit. ये वो तमाम Degrees हासिल कर लेने से कोई पूर्ण रूपेण Master हो गया, ऐसा नहीं। अपनी बात को पुनः पीछे ले जाते हुए सर्वशिक्षा की जगह सर्वसाक्षरता Title कहीं ज्यादा तर्कपूर्ण और Fruitful होगा और इतना अधिक लाभप्रद होगा जिसका लाभ सारी जनता को मिल सकेगा। करना क्या होगा? यह एक प्रश्न उठ सकता है। उत्तर के रूप में ऐसा करा जा सकता है कि 8वीं कक्षा तक हर एक के लिए Literacy with little knowledge of other subjects be made compulsory पाठ्यक्रम में मातृभाषा को बहुत ही मेहनत और लगन के साथ पढ़ाया जाये जिससे बच्चे को किसी

भी प्रकार का लिखना, पढ़ना और समझना आ जाये।

गणित को दूसरा मुख्य विषय रखा जाये ताकि इस विषय की मोटी और Basic जानकारी में उसे कभी भी परेशानी न हो। इसके साथ ही अन्य विषय तथा थोड़ी सी Basic Science, History, Geography आदि का ज्ञान करा दिया जाये जो आगे चलकर उसके काम आ सके। यदि वह उन विषयों की अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहे तो। इतना करने के बाद यदि किसी बच्चे को आगे पढ़ने में Interest और Capability है तो वह पढ़ता जाता है। यदि नहीं तो, अनेक छोटे बड़े काम हैं कर सकता है और जीवन यापन का tension free, competitive free साधन बना सकता है।

यह बात याद रखने की है कि थोपी गई शिक्षा या विषय, बच्चे में ऐसी ऊब और distaste के अलावा कोई कार्य नहीं करते। और यही हो रहा है Highschool तक हर बच्चे, बच्ची को Maths लेना है, अंग्रेजी पढ़नी है, पर क्यों? क्यों न हम Junior High School के बाद ही बच्चे के Taste और I.Q. के हिसाब से उसे स्वयं चुन लेने दें। चूँकि प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा से लिखने पढ़ने की नींव तो मजबूत हो चुकी है। अब वह 9वीं से जिस किसी एक या दो विषयों को चुनना है, उन्हीं विषयों को वह आगे की कक्षा में पढ़ता चला जाता है और आखिरी कक्षा में बगैर हैरान हुए इतना कुछ सीख चुका होता है कि वह वाकई मास्टर कहलाने योग्य बनता है। एक बात तो शायद आधार है, शिक्षा का आधार है और बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है वह है बच्चे को (जब से वह थोड़ा बहुत समझने लगे) नैतिक शिक्षा

देना। किताबों से और उससे भी अधिक शिक्षकों को अपने आला आचरण का बच्चों के सामने उदाहरण रखते हुए। कभी भी, कहीं भी नैतिकता व्यवहार सम्बन्धी प्रश्न उठें तो उस सन्दर्भ में तुरन्त, उसी समय कक्षा में उस विषय पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए। कहा जाता है कि strike the iron when it is hot यह प्रणाली बच्चे का चरित्र निर्माण करेगी और वह भी इतना मजबूत कि परिस्थिती कितनी ही विकट विपरीत और भयानक क्यों न हो, उसे विचलित नहीं कर सकती। यही शिक्षा का मर्म है। यही आज की शिक्षा में lack कर रहा है जिस कारण corruption creep in कर रहा है। Knowledge has become so poor that very few could be called 'Educated' in true sense of the terms तमाम विषय पढ़ते जाते हैं, शोध चलते हैं, Projects बनते हैं नतीजा Negative. परीक्षा भवन के बाहर आते ही यदि आप छात्र से पूछें कि उसने क्या लिखा, कहता/कहती है बस

लिख दिया, जान छूटी। पहले रटने (mugging) फिर भूलने की प्रक्रिया तेजी के साथ बढ़ जाती है। क्यों? उत्तर है -

Extra work load elaborated subject matter and enhanced syllabus. Brain has got limited power and potential, it can't go beyond this पर यदि इन्हीं दायरों के अन्दर कार्य किया जायेगा तो result खूबसूरत होंगे। तभी कोई सही मायनों में साक्षर होने के साथ शिक्षित कहलायेगा।

इस तरह तो हर बशर ही शिक्षित होगा क्योंकि हर व्यक्ति अपनी इच्छा और योग्यता के अनुरूप महारत हासिल करेगा। फिर कौन एंसा साक्षर होगा जो शिक्षित न हो। सभी। फिर तो शिक्षा ही शिक्षा, उसकी गरिमा, उसका महत्व समाज व राष्ट्र के हर क्षेत्र में दिखाई देगा। तब कोई भी व्यक्ति न Superiority की भावना बना सकेगा न कोई Inferiority की। सभी साक्षर और सभी शिक्षित।

मेरी प्रेरणा का स्रोत बेटियाँ

- वर्षा

आंसू की बूंद सी होती है बेटियाँ
पापा की प्यारी व दादा की दुलारी होती है बेटियाँ
माँ बाप के दर्द में हमदर्द होती है बेटियाँ
रोशन करेगा बेटा बस एक ही कुल को
दो-दो कुलों की लाज होती है बेटियाँ
हीरा है अगर बेटा, तो सच्चा मोती है बेटियाँ
कांटों की राह पर चलती है बेटियाँ
औरों की राह में फूल बनती बेटियाँ
कहने को पराई अमानत है बेटियाँ
पर बेटों से बढ़कर अपनी होती है बेटियाँ
बेटा है आंख तो पलकें होती है बेटियाँ
जीवन का मूल सारांश होती है बेटियाँ



Dr Sun Young Yoon, chairperson CSW59 with AIWC Office Bearers



CSW 59 session in Assembly Hall, UN



Workshop on parenting skills, Bengaluru



Garlanding Sarojini Naidu statue on her birthday, 13th February



Chief Guest International Women's Day Dr. Lakshmi Devi, Principal Shaheed Rajguru College, Introduced by Dr. Manorama Bawa (Patron)



AIWC Pathankot on International Women's Day, give an award to Indravir Kaur, In-Charge of Women Sale providing employment to women of weaker sections



Song Mujhe Pankh Dedo presented by AIWC team at Vadodara



Winners of Peace & Environment Wall Painting Competition organised by AIWC Mumbai-Street Children project, Nivedita Sheth, Hon. Secy.



Mrs. Veena Kohli, President AIWC greeted with flowers by Smt. Laxmi Upadhyay, President, AIWC Vadodara



Inauguration of the 87th Annual Session by Rajmata Smt. Subhangini Devi



Warm welcome from AIWC Vadodara to our patrons, Mrs Kunti Paul, Dr Manorama Bawa, Mrs Bina Jain and members



Book release at the Annual Conference "Nayi Disha" by Smt Shakuntala Parekh, Patron, AIWC Mumbai



Inauguration of SWEDWA 16th anniversary, 17th January, 2015



Sarojini Naidu's poem The Queens Rival enacted by girls in Bapnu Ghar, AIWC on 13th February, 2015



Ujjawal celebrates its Silver Jubilee



Mrs. Bina Jain greets Mrs. Veena Kohli, Silver Jubilee celebrations of Ujjawal