

Roshni

*Celebrating
The New Team
at the Helm!*

January - March, 2020



ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

OUR NEW TEAM 2020



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(President), Smt. Rehana Begum (Treasurer)

Editor's Note – The photographs in this issue are those that were available with our members. Under lockdown conditions, we could not commission more representative pictures. We hope you forgive our constraints

ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference
January - March 2020

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From the Editor's Desktop

From: Editor, Roshni

To: Members

The New Year's first Roshni spotlights those balmy days before Covid-19. We celebrate a new team at the head of AIWC and the promise of new beginnings.

In this issue, we share the vision of our President, Mrs. Sheela Kakde, and introduce you to our new office bearers. There is news from our branches, celebrating the events of a normal life. Head Office held programs to train new functionaries and give staff fresh inspiration. It was a different world, where meetings and workshops needed no second thought.

The President spoke prophetic words in her inaugural address. Our organisation trimmed its sails and faced the storm with heroism and success, as she foretold. We stood like a beacon to our fellow citizens, holding out food, essential supplies, dedication and hope, and our next issue will showcase it all to the world.

This current issue of Roshni has been forged in the fires of uncertainty, during the lockdown, when no contact was possible except online. There are many things we would have done better if we had been living in normal times. But we hope you will accept this offering in the spirit in which it has been made – that nothing will hold us back, and we will overcome.

Address by Smt. Sheela Kakde, President AIWC



Annual Conference , Manesar, January 2020

prestigious post. Special thanks to all the Standing Committee Members across the country and also to the senior members of the various branches for guiding the new Standing Committee Members and helping them know that I would do justice to the faith that you all have placed in me by electing me as President of this prestigious organisation, the All India Women's Conference, for the term 2020 to 2022. I am deeply indebted to all of you. I began this Election journey with the blessings of our senior most Patron, Padmabhushan Smt. Shobhanatai Ranade. Thanks also to our Patrons Smt. Kuntiji Paul, Dr. Manoramaji Bawa, Smt. Gomthiji Nair, Smt. Veenaji Kohli, our new Patron Smt. Rakeshji Dhawan-and not to forget my Mentor, Guide and Patron Smt. Binaji Jain. Her support to me, during my tenure as Secretary General and her faith that I would one day head this organisation, has given me strength and reinstated my faith that yes, I can do it! Binaji, I am ever so grateful to you! And how can I move forward without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to our Vice President, Smt. Rekha Akhilesh Sali, for pushing me hard and tirelessly every day for the past few years and supporting me extensively throughout last year. Thanks a TONNE, Rekha. My gratitude is also due to our Mumbai Branch President and my close friend, silent worker, MIC-Gender Sensitisation, Smt. Harsha Ladhani. Now to come to my three-year plan. I will begin with a short span of four months at a time. At the end of four months we can review the situation and improvise

OM Bhadram karnebhi: shrunuyam Deva: I

Bhadram pasheymakshabhiryajatra: I

Sthirairangayeesthushtuwagm sastanubhi: I

Vyasheyam Devahitam yadaya: I

Swasthi na Indro Vrudhashrava: I

Swasti n: Poosha vishwveda: I

Swasti n:starkshyo arishtanemi: I

Swasti no Bruhaspati:dadhatu I

Om Shanti: Shanti: Shanti: II

(This Shloka is from Ganapati Atharvashirsha, which praises Lord Ganesha. This prayer in short means we should hear all good, our eyes should see all good, and our healthy, blessed body should be engaged in doing selfless service always.)

NAMASKAR,

A big "Thank You" to each one of you for thinking me worthy and capable of this most

on it and move ahead. It will be a result oriented and deadline-based work. First and foremost I would like to work in complete harmony with all of you. Unless our minds are at peace, our efficiency will not reach its peak. So if we have to bring out the best in each one of us, it is very necessary to maintain a healthy and a happy relationship with all our colleagues. Focus on Positivity always, as, positivity and positivity alone will give you the strength to perform in harmony with Nature. Do all your activities selflessly by devoting it to God with ARPANBUDDHI and enjoy happiness and peace of mind. (Ishwaraarpitameschayakrutam.) I have a dream for AIWC which will be fulfilled only with all your untiring efforts , support and blessings. They say true leaders inspire their people to achieve more, dream more and become more. I am someone who shall ensure that my own actions motivate each one of you to unlock your power from within. Times will never be the same. There will be times when the situation will be tough and it is in those situations that we make a choice. Either sit back and complain about the wind, or just wait for the weather to change OR we take it in our stride, adjust our sails and face the storm. We should be “The Team” that is ready to take on the storm head on. Remember we are not “a team” just because we work together- We are a "team" because we respect, trust and care for each other. The jobs that I now feel are the need of the hour are:

1) OLD AGE HOME: The condition of our senior citizens in Vrindavan needs to be upgraded. The last days of these Matajis should be peaceful and comfortable. The two plots that we have got in donation need to be developed

at the earliest. I would like to start work on that right away.

- 2) “WORKING MANUAL FOR THE VOLUNTARY MEMBERS OF AIWC”, must be made so that uniformity is maintained in all our branches.
- 3) EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: It appears that a whole generation worked to empower women, but we have forgotten to teach our men how to live with these Empowered Women. So I would like to formulate a program on this subject which all branches should take up. That will also bring down the number of atrocities to a considerable extent.
- 4) “SWACHHATA ABHIYAN”: Our Prime Minister’s Project is something that I would like all our branches to take up on a war footing. Each member of AIWC should be a volunteer in this and inspire others. We must make our country CLEAN and thereby bring in good health to all. Cleanliness is next to Godliness and so this will be a great human service done by each one of us.
- 5) SAVE OUR PLANET,SAVE OUR EARTH: This of course is now almost like a final call if the next generation has to survive. I have definite plans for this project which I will be sharing with you soon and I expect all our branches to work on it.
- 6) “SEXUAL HARRASSMENT and ATROCITIES ON WOMEN” of all age groups. This project must be done with the help of local Govt. Authorities, so that at least the areas of our work become safe. We need to work tirelessly on changing the mind set of

our society at large. It is a Herculean task , but I am sure , all of us joined together will bring in a noticeable change.

These are the few projects to begin with. As time goes by, I will inform you of all the other projects that I have in mind which need to be done. Of course, any suggestions for any new programs from any of you are most welcome. Ours must be a two-way traffic, only then we can make some head way. You can email me all your suggestions and I assure you that all of them will be considered in detail. I will always be accessible to you all. I firmly believe that I have come to this position by the Divine Grace of the Almighty. I have been chosen the “Custodian” to carry on the rich legacy of AIWC to greater heights. And while thanking you all once again, last but not least, I would like to whole heartedly thank my husband Mr. Ranjit Kakde who is here right now to share this glorious moment with me. He has stood by me like a rock all through my thirty-five years of Social Service. During my tenure as Secretary General, he was unwell for sometime, so I thought I should stay back, but he was determined that I go ahead and honour my commitment. Ranjit, I take this opportunity to say just two words-THANK YOU. I have no words to express what I am feeling right now. All this would never have been possible without your whole hearted support. So I will alter the famous quote, which is “behind every successful man stands a woman”, to “behind every

successful woman also stands a man!!” I truly believe that greatness is never achieved by a single person. It is always the power of an entire team that can achieve the impossible-I am here to work with you. Together we shall achieve the impossible and that will be my biggest gift ever from you all- not any material gifts at any time. No one can whistle a symphony ...you need an orchestra to play it. Without you all, I can never make the symphony- Ever! Remember only team work can make the dream become a reality. With a will that shall never die and perseverance that shall never accept defeat, all of us must walk hand in hand to continue to serve our organisation with the same unparalleled zest that our predecessors at AIWC have done. “Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.....” And that my dear friends is the thought that I would like to leave with you, to never let go of what we started together---- May our courage and our dream live on...because only then will AIWC achieve the goal that we have set for ourselves.

“Sarve Sukhinh Santu,

Sarve Santu Niramayah,

Sarve Bhadrani Pashyant,

Makashchit Dukhabhagbhavet

Om Shanti: Shanti: Shanti:”

THANK YOU. JAI HIND.

Address by Smt. Rakesh Dhawan, Outgoing President, AIWC

Annual Conference , Manesar, January 2020

Hello Sisters, welcome back to Manesar.

In the last few days, many of you have commented that my years as President have gone very fast.

I have been so touched by all the good wishes that I have received. Today it's my turn to say thank you. Whether we have seen eye-to-eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you are what have kept me honest and inspired, and kept me going every day. In these three years I have found that the President is always fully supported, people volunteer for things, "upward" praise is given, and everyone is pulling in the same direction. The great gift that our Founders gave us was to strive together to achieve a greater good. Today I proudly say on behalf of each one of you that Words are from the lips, Actions are from the heart. I feel proud of our vigor. We have gone through a commendable journey in the last 3 years.

Education Trust: A total number of 357 girl students received the Financial Grant from the Trust for pursuing various professional degree courses. All students recommended by the Branches are bright in studies. They are pursuing various degree courses such as B.Tech, MBBS, BDS, Nursing, B.Ed etc. There are five exceptionally bright students doing MBBS. The biggest achievement is of a girl student from Hyderabad- Secunderabad Branch who has topped the University in M.Sc Food Sciences and Nutrition. She has won a Gold

Medal and secured a job in UGC as Asstt. Professor with a salary of Rs. 1 Lac per month.

Old Age Trust: 17 Branches across the country are running the 'Day Care Centre' programme for Women Senior Citizens. The programme is quite successful and the elderly ladies feel happy coming to these Centers.

Health Trust: 11 Branches of AIWC conducted the 'Swasth Sudhar Village' programme. Slowly this is picking up.

I congratulate all the trustees on such a commendable achievement.

GUCCI team is working on state level policies in two of our Metro cities- Delhi and Mumbai. This was presented at the Johannesburg meet. Kolkata and Chennai GUCCI teams are also working on strategies and policies with the State Government. The 2019 International GUCCI meet was conducted by AIWC India in Mumbai.

- AIWC Hostel team is running the operations smoothly and the occupancy rate is increasing gradually.
- Estate Management i.e. Repairs and maintenance work which is an ongoing process has been taken care of on a case-to-case basis. New Air Coolers duct system has been implemented in three floors of Sarojini Hostel

- We inaugurated an Exhibition Centre to display various products for business opportunities.
- CCTV cameras have been installed in Aga Khan Hall.
- Most of the cases received at Bapnu Ghar have been resolved.
- MCM library is now computerized i.e. we have implemented the library management software KOHA along with bar coding classification. Our library received a grant of Rs.7,00,000/- from the National Archives of India for preservation, conservation and digitization of manuscripts in 2017-18
- AVI College added BSW, BA, BCom and MSW courses in their curriculum. AVI College was under renovation. All the renovation works are complete.
- Textile Unit is operating smoothly and utilizing the Exhibition Centre to display their products
- Mahavan and Vrindavan Land boundary wall construction is complete
- The Canara Bank partition wall is complete
- 90 years journey was celebrated across India with the theme of National Integration in 2018

I also had the opportunity to participate in the GUCCI International meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa and IWPG Conference in South Korea.

I am now looking forward to hand the baton to Smt. Sheela Kakde. The great services to the community made by each and every one of you make AIWC proud, because you sisters have changed so many lives. Thank you for demonstrating what it means to put Service above Self.

Dear sisters, the last three years have changed my life, I want to acknowledge my two wonderful colleagues Smt. Kalyani Raj, Secretary General and Dr. Manju Kak, Treasurer, for their continuous support. I am thankful to our Patrons who have been our guides throughout this journey and to the entire office team, without whose dedication and support these achievements would have been impossible.

I believe that this great organization will continue to grow and prosper and each one of you will be happy and fulfilled here. Keep up the good work.

***Thank You,
Rakesh Dhawan***

Address by Smt. Kalyani Raj, Outgoing Sec General, AIWC

Annual Conference , Manesar, January 2020

My dear friends and colleagues

Three years ago, when I took up the position of Secretary General of AIWC, it was with a lot of excitement and apprehension. However, today at the end of my tenure, I must say that it has been a wonderful and rich experience for me. Each day there was something new to learn, a new idea, a prospective opportunity and a task to deliver. There were a number of occasions during my tenure which reinforced the feeling of pride in being part of such an esteemed organization. The support from the members across India has been amazing and spontaneous. Each branch, each member was ready to pitch in and support any call given by Head Office as well as come up with innovative ideas towards achievement of the objectives of the organization. The journey for me has been exciting and satisfying and to a large extent I feel that I have been able to accomplish what I set out to achieve.

That said, I still feel that more could have been possible. I did try to revise and re-module some of the regular programs, but I feel we need to work on them a little more to make the outcome meaningful and worth showcasing. Introduction of the 'Empowerment Cell' for each zone was for this particular purpose. While the outcome of the TOT has been quite satisfactory, we can further revise it to suit the requirement of each zone. Further, we should try to make it mandatory for each member attending the TOT to go back and disseminate the learning in her own branch. Only then we can reach out to a wider network of members and branches.

AIWC branches are striving hard to reach out to

maximum deserving beneficiaries and bring fame to the organization. To support and add value to their efforts, I would suggest the following:

- (1) While some of the branches did respond to our call for more innovative programs, I strongly feel that branches should come up with new ideas with specific focus on the region they are working in and the target beneficiaries they have. The primary objective of the organization is 'Socio-economic Empowerment'. Any program will be successful only if the design is based on an extensive survey of the area, resource availability and outcome assessment. Hence, I would once again request branches to conduct surveys of their area and suggest appropriate and innovative programs to achieve meaningful results.
- (2) Another suggestion to the new team would be to have at least one or two hours of orientation during every half yearly and annual conference, on the history of the organization, objectives, system followed and contemporary issues of society.
- (3) Climate change is another area of critical concern that AIWC can take forward. Ever since the tenure of the late Smt. Balakrishnan, AIWC has made a mark in the climate change arena, at the national as well as international level. Branches can take up programs to further understand the impact specific to their area and create awareness on mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- (4) Last but not least, it is essential for us to stay updated with the global processes and

trends. I did try to align all our programmes to the SDGs to project it in the international arena and that has had tremendous results. Through several international projects, AIWC has successfully showcased our work under several goals and targets of the development agenda. I strongly recommend continuation of this practice to make are AIWC program more contemporary and have better outcomes.

For whatever has been possible for me to achieve, I must sincerely thank President, Smt. Rakesh Dhawan and Treasurer Dr. ManjuKak for their support and cooperation. My sincere gratitude to each and every staff member of Head Office for standing by me, for sharing goodies cooked by

them lovingly, for coming around and cheering me on days I felt drained or exhausted and for reminding me to relax when I got agitated. Coming to office every day became enjoyable only because of them.

I take this opportunity to wish President Elect Smt. Sheela Kakde the very best in her new position and all success for the incoming team under her guidance and leadership. I also would like to pledge my continued support to the new team as well as all the members and this great organization for times to come.

Warm regards to all
Kalyani Raj



Cultural Program

Annual Conference, Manesar, January 2020

With inputs by Smt. Nishi Jain

(President, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut and Zonal Organiser–Central Zone A, AIWC)

The 92nd Annual Conference of AIWC took place in Manesar from 29th January to 1st February 2020. On 31st evening, after voting, a cultural program was organized by Smt. Nishi Jain, President, Sanjeevni Sanstha, Meerut. Delegates from all AIWC Branches took part, and the event was a great success.

The occasion revealed many aspects of our heritage with dance and music. The participants dressed up as historical characters and each one gave a two-minute performance on stage as Maharana Pratap, Tipoo Sultan, Jhansi ki Rani, Akbar, Salim, Anarkali, Mumtaz Mahal, Rani Padmini,

Shivaji etc. The performance of Baji Rao and Kashi Bai was praiseworthy. A comedy skit-Akbar ka Insaaf-was much appreciated by the audience. All participants took great pains to make the show successful.

The cultural evening was attended by distinguished delegates from all over India, and was greatly enjoyed by the office bearers of AIWC. At the end, handmade bags were given to all delegates by Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut. Kudos to the anchors, Chandraprabha Pandey from Delhi and Ritu Jain from Meerut.



Cultural Program at Manesar

Smt. Sheela Kakde – President, AIWC

A Profile by Smt. Rekha A. Sali (MIC – Constitution, AIWC)

Mother Theresa once said, ‘I know I cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone in the water to create many ripples.’ There is such a woman with this desire - one whom I am fortunate enough to know closely, a woman who is fierce, strong and full of fire. There came a day when she could not hold herself back, because her passion burned brighter than her fears and she made the decision to create those ripples. That woman is none other than our newly elected President and my dear friend Smt. Sheela Ranjit Kakde. The year was 1987, when along with a few friends she founded the Gulmohur Mahila Mandal, with the sole intention of doing something good for Society. In 1989, Gulmohur became affiliated to AIWC. There was no looking back. Beginning from the lowest rung of the ladder, the rest is history

They say strong women are the ones who spend their lives building others, picking up others and making them realise their own potential. That is my most vivid memory of Sheela -that is exactly how she was when I first met her in 1996, when I joined the Gulmohur band wagon. She continues to be the same person today. She has always brought people together, built them and done extraordinary things! I am certainly one of those lucky people she built, helped find purpose and steered to make my mark and find my own identity. I am sure many of our friends will identify themselves with this trait of hers. It is an absolute honour for me to

write about her. While words may not do justice, I will try my best. So here goes--

Sheelaji gives a vibe of self-confidence that anyone can spot from a mile away and she tackles any situation she faces head on. She perseveres through storms and never ever gives up. She knows exactly what she wants and goes after it. She does not depend on anyone else. Her self-confidence, drive and ambition come from within, and she certainly is a force to reckon with. Her determination, perseverance and love for work 24/7 is there for all to see.

She continuously challenges herself, believing that complacency is equal to death. When you get too comfortable you stop growing and become stagnant. So, to combat these negative feelings she loves to take up new challenges. Just a few years back she joined the Chinmayanand Mission. Her desire to study the Bhagwad Geeta saw her enrolling herself for the 2-year course which she successfully completed with distinction. Very early in this spiritual journey Smt. Kakde who was a hard core non vegetarian turned totally vegetarian. That was baffling, for I so well knew her love for non vegetarian food. This abstinence requires tremendous will power and determination which she has got in abundance. During the course of the Presidential Election process, she took up knitting, her favourite hobby from her school days. She committed that she would knit 10 scarves for

the jawans of Ladakh by 31st October and finished them on time!

Another facet that she believes in is about lifting others up around her. She loves to see that others can also reach success. She firmly believes that no one can reach the top of the pedestal alone and therefore encourages everyone around her to work together. Let us not forget her culinary expertise. An excellent cook herself, she is passionate about celebrating all festivals with great aplomb.

An example of her grit and determination was when she completed the Mansarovar Parikrama covering 52 Kms a few years back. An even a bigger feat was her doing the 14 kms Parikrama on Mahashivratri when she visited the Ramana Maharshi Ashram at Vindhyaachal only last year--after knee replacement surgery on both legs!

She is a deeply religious person and has immense faith in Sai Baba. I was fortunate enough to witness her implicit faith in him. While deciding whether to stand for the Presidential Election or not, while I was firm that she should contest the election, she was equally firm that she would go ahead only if Baba wanted her to. Once the green signal was received, there was no looking back. With single minded pursuit, determination and perseverance she began the Election journey. With the D-Day of the results drawing closer there were so many doubts in my mind. But she was confident that there was nothing to worry about as Baba has already chosen her to do this work. Our visit to the Sai Baba Shrine at Shirdi just before the result and the happenings there confirmed our belief that she

would make it. We came back absolutely assured and totally at peace.

Sheela, I am going to miss all the visits that we made so regularly to the Siddhi Vinayak and Mahalakshmi temples. She has been a very close family friend and has always been involved in every joy of my family. She was always the first one to gift my children whenever they excelled in studies, and now this has continued with my granddaughter. Aarna just cannot digest that Sheela Aiji (Granny) has left Mumbai. She has been wondering why she could not have stayed in the Mumbai Office and done her work as she always did. According to her as the Mumbai office is now under renovation, a bigger office could so easily have been made for her! Then she wouldn't have to go to Delhi. How I wish that could be done and the Head Office could shift to Mumbai!!! Aarna is also missing all the goodies that you used to send for her when, after our work at your place, I would go and pick her up from school.

Sheela has always stood by me like a rock, not only because we are dear friends, but because that is second nature to her. She does all she can and that too with no expectations. This attitude is probably why divine blessings have always been showered on her. I truly hope the world has more people like you and may the rest be equally blessed like me to have a friend like you.

While following her own passions, family was always at the top of her mind. Her daughter Dr. Gauri Parab holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, and her son-in-law, Mr. Sumeet Parab, an Engineer by profession, is a partner in a Media Company

called Mindshare. They are currently based in Jakarta with their thirteen-year-old son Arya. The couple enjoys travelling, scuba diving and are ardent runners. Both have competed over 15 full Marathons and have recently finished the very challenging Ironman 70.3 Triathlon in Indonesia. Her grandson Arya is passionate about swimming, which has won him accolades in Indonesia. He is amongst the top ten in the country in his age group. Smt. Kakde's son Mr. Satyendra Kakde is a Manager in a Multinational Company that makes gears and clutches for heavy vehicles, and her daughter-in-law Priya is a graphic designer. They are settled in London. They too are avid divers and travel the world to pursue their passion. All in all, it is a family of globe trotters. Mr. Kakde has retired from Bhabha Atomic Research Center as General Manager, Engineer Scientist. The couple has travelled to almost 100 countries around the world. The love and support her husband and

children have given her has only made her grow!

These past ten years we have been working so closely, meeting practically every afternoon. Being with you all these years, my trust and belief in the Divine has multiplied, as I have witnessed that the Almighty stands behind you always.

I can write volumes, but I am struggling to find expression to my feelings. Writing this article has brought back so many wonderful memories. I am sure these three years will pass soon and in no time, you will be back home after achieving what you set out to do. I am sure you will come back more respected, more loved and more admired.

While I can go on and on, let me close by saying that Sheela is someone who inspires everyone to dream more, do more, achieve more and become more! All I can say is that it has been my absolute privilege to have worked with her at such close quarters.



*Smt. Rekha Sali, Smt. Sheela Kakde,
Shri Ranjit Kakde*



On the Dais

Smt. Kuljit Kaur – Secretary General, AIWC

A Profile by Smt. Asha Gambhir (former Secretary General, AIWC)

An endearing, confident countenance, quick witted, and with a kind word for everyone - This is the newly elected Secretary General, Smt. Kuljit Kaur.

After retiring as a Gazetted Officer from Indian Railways, Kuljit joined AIWC in order to follow her passions and to give back to society what she had acquired in life. She became a member of Ujjawal Women's Association and soon came into prominence at AIWC's Head Office. Immediately noticed by the then management for her professionalism, she was entrusted with many responsibilities, which she fulfilled satisfactorily. Her greatest passion is Women's Rights, education, Gender Justice, and violence against women, whether at home or in the work place.

Since her ideals matched those of the organisation perfectly, it did not take her long to fit into its mould. Because of her sense of justice and compassionate heart, she was given charge of Bapnu Ghar, a challenging project which she managed successfully for seven years.

Among the many other posts she graced was that of Vice President, an elected post. She took a lot of

interest in the Constitution of the Organisation and actively participated in all the meetings.

Her interest in Women's Issues brought her into close interaction with other NGOs who had similar interests. A keen academician, she studies new laws pertaining to Women's Issues in detail and has represented AIWC in various Ministries where new laws are in the drafting stage. She has conducted seminars all over the country under the AIWC banner, creating awareness and educating the branches. This has brought her fame, both nationally and internationally- she was recently recognised by a Paris- based NGO and invited by the Govt. of France to speak on violence against women. She also read a paper at UNCSW.

Kuljit is a Woman of Substance. She has struggled through life to emerge victorious. Having lost her husband early in life she brought up her two boys who are now well settled. Never to shy away from any problem whether personal or official, she courageously moves on to handling it all amicably and with a smile. Beneath her cheerful countenance are nerves of steel and a heart which throbs for the women of her country. Immaculately dressed, her signature is the matching string around her neck, and the lace-edged handkerchief tucked smartly in her sari.

Smt. Rehana Begum – Treasurer, AIWC

A Profile by Smt. Ashitha Sharan (Vice President AIWC)

Friendship is one of the greatest blessings that not everyone is lucky enough to have. We meet a lot of people in the journey of life but there are only a few who leave a mark on us. I feel elated to pen a few lines about my dear friend Smt. Su. Rehana Begum whom I lovingly call Rehana.

Though I knew her previously, our closeness started when she was elected Vice President and I, Joint Secretary. Coincidentally during our tenure, in most of the conferences we both shared the same room which paved the way for us to know each other better and begin a beautiful journey of friendship.

Rehana, is a true Taurian. She can be defined by her loving nature and determination. She's a bit of a "touchy feely" person and with this warmth, she has earned many close relationships and friendships. Those closest to her appreciate her loving heart.

I feel one of the main reasons why I formed such a bond with her was because of the qualities she possesses. Her calmness and thoughtfulness always inspired me. Above all, I feel the quality that appealed to me the most is her compassion and mutual respect .

Rehana is always smiling and witty, making us laugh our hearts out. However I have seen her emotional side too ...tears rolling each time she remembered her mentor M.K. Sayee Kumary or during her toughest time when she lost her life partner. Still she

braved her way forward with her own strength, and support from her family and friends.

Someone has truly said -A dream does not become a reality through magic. It takes sweat, resolution, vision and hard work. She has carved her own niche to reach the zenith of success due to her diligence and tenacity for excellence.

We both seem to be sailing together once again in the AIWC boat , she as Treasurer and me as Vice President. During this phase both of us supported, inspired and pushed each other to do our best. In short, the bond I share with her is one of my most prized possessions.

To put everything in a nut shell Rehana is ever smiling... confident ... witty...capable. A vibrant personality, easy going by nature, enthusiastic and with unending energy which fills everyone around her with the same enthusiasm and joy. A true devotee of humanity, she is a very fast learner with a zest for life as she loves to acquire new skills and believes that one must keep learning till one's last breath. She connects with all members, is never at loss for words and is an organized person. She is a woman of great virtue and simplicity, who enjoys being a loving mom and grand mom when at home. She adores her big family and treasures her friends as her asset!

She has touched my heart as a friend. I am sure she would be touching many more hearts with friendship during her tenure as Treasurer.



*Smt. Kalyani Raj, Smt. Kuljit Kaur,
Smt. Asha Gambhir*



*Smt. Rehana Begum with
Smt. Ashitha Sharan*

My Participation in WUF10 in Abu Dhabi (UAE)

by Smt. Kalyani Raj, (MIC- Environment and Climate Change)

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the world's premier conference on urban issues. It started in 2001 to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today - rapid urbanisation and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

The WUF is organized by UN Habitat with the following objectives:

- Raise awareness of sustainable urbanisation among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public;
- Improve the collective knowledge of sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates and exchange of best practices

- Increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanisation.

The Tenth World Urban Forum (WUF 10), held in Abu Dhabi from 8-13 February 2020, attracted over 13,000 attendees. The Forum focused on the theme '**Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation,**' and called for united action to ensure a better future for cities and towns. The six day event held more than 500 side events pertaining to several relevant issues concerning urban areas like water, sanitation, transport, habitat, waste and few others. The forum provided good opportunities for sharing of best practices among different city authorities, CSOs and other stakeholders.

Members from all the four cities in India implementing GUCCI project attended the WUF. My participation in the WUF was very enriching and beneficial. Gender CC, the donor organization of AIWC's GUCCI project, held a training event on 'How to work towards gender-responsive urban climate policy, sharing tools to build inclusive resilient cities'. The objective of the training was to enhance participants' skills and knowledge on gender assessment tools for policies, projects, plans and actions. The idea was also to create a platform or community of practice of stakeholders working or interested in the fields of gender equality, climate change and urban development.

The training was provided in a very interactive way by all the international implementing organizations from Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico and India to around 25 participants. GAMMA tools (Gender assessment and monitoring of mitigation and adaptation) were used for the training which help identifying possible gender entry points and develop

recommendations to address gender gaps in the policy process. We were also able to showcase the projects being implemented under the project. The micro-level waste management project in Rithala and the waste water treatment plant initiated by GUCCI Delhi were very well appreciated. The projects to be undertaken by Mumbai - waste water treatment in a school and Kolkata - restoration of mangroves in Sunderbans were also highlighted. The feed-back collected at the end of the training was satisfactory and encouraging.

Another networking event was also held by all the partners along with Gender CC partners showcasing the project outcomes and experience. There were number of other side events which provided learning opportunities and good take-away, particularly relating to sanitation and waste management. With the rapid increase in urbanization, such forums are becoming important knowledge exchange platforms and participation therein is certainly meaningful. I sincerely thank AIWC for providing me the opportunity.

Visit to Mathura and Vrindavan Old Age and Short Stay Home

By Smt. Sumi Chopra, (Zonal Organiser-North Zone, AIWC)

Considered among the holiest cities of India, Vrindavan and Mathura have been the epicenter of religious activities since millennia. Along with being a spiritual center, Vrindavan over period of time has also emerged as a City of Widows. Destitute women from across the country, often with their young children, come to this city to find refuge and support for survival.



President AIWC and Secretary General AIWC being felicitated by Dr. Sadhna Kulshreshth MIC-Old Age Home and Secretary, Mathura Vrindavan Branch, along with Smt. Brijesh Sharma President, Dr Anita Gupta Treasurer, Kunjan Srivastava Patron, Anjali Saxena Founder Member, Baby Gahlot, Neelam Sood, Lata Sharma, Pratibha Sharma, Neerja Sharma, Members, Kamlesh Singh Short Stay Home, Rekha Pramanik Old Age Home, Lakshmi Das Senior Citizen Home, Sunita Chawla, Sunita Chaturvedi, Geeta Agrawal In-charge, Old Age Home, Tarash Mandir

AIWC, realizing this acute need, stepped in and started an Old Age Home and Short Stay Home, catering to the needs of shelter, food, health etc. of all the old women, young ladies and children staying on long- or short-term bases in these centers.

Recognizing the importance and in an endeavor to scale up the existing facilities, our newly elected President Smt. Sheela Kakde and Secretary General Smt. Kuljit Kaur visited AIWC run Old Age Home and Short Stay Home at Vrindavan on 7th Feb 2020, accompanied by Smt. Sumi Chopra, who had been MIC-Old Age Home during the previous term. They were given a warm reception by the Mathura Vrindavan Branch members and the residents of the homes, who gathered together to felicitate them on their arrival.



Loving reception given to President and Secretary General at AIWC Old Age home at Vrindavan

The present Old Age Home is housed in rented premises, Tarash Mandir, and accommodates old women, and women who are there for a short stay accompanied by their children. All the residents gave a wholehearted welcome to the visiting members, reciprocated by President and Secretary General who distributed sweets among them.



Distributing goodies to the children

This facility now needs substantial renovation. The President and Secretary General again took up this issue with the landlord and had elaborate discussions on how the required work could be accomplished at the earliest and the living condition of the residents could be further improved. It is heartening to see the degree of care and empathy with which they are trying to accomplish this, and we wish them the best in their endeavor. Another alternative of building our own infrastructure on the land donated by one of our own members in Vrindavan is also being considered. The team also visited the said plot

on which AIWC has erected the boundary wall, to evaluate the feasibility for suitable facilities which can be brought up there.

Office Bearers and the team then visited AIWC's plot of land at Mahavan, Mathura. This plot, measuring approx. 1000sq.yards has been donated by yet another generous member. A boundary wall on the plot has been constructed by AIWC. To further build upon the extensive groundwork undertaken so far and to ascertain the optimum



President with an elderly resident of the Home.

facilities that could be created at that place, the visiting team met the locals of the area to factor in their needs. A definite requirement for infrastructure containing facilities for girl's education, skill development program and day care facilities for old women has been reaffirmed. The engagement level of the President and Secretary General was exemplary and very encouraging.

The importance accorded to the Old Age and Short Stay homes by the newly elected Office Bearers is heartening and reassuring that whatever support is needed to further improve the facilities shall be provided on priority.

Feminism among The Tribal Women of South Odisha

By Smt. Sapna Acharya (Secretary, Vikas Mahila Sangam, Mayur Vihar Phase-2)

The tribal community of South Odisha in the Koraput region comprises very distinct primitive tribes who live in a natural forest ambience and preserve their ancestral heritage. Around 62 varieties of the community live in different locations of South Odisha. But their lifestyle appears amazing in these modern times.



Mostly speaking their native languages only, the people of these tribes do not have mobility. They depend on agriculture and forest collection, which is their principal source of livelihood. They extensively practice shifting cultivation and they grow a mixed variety of millets, pulses, and niger. Being mostly agriculturists, they synchronize their cultural practices with nature. The female members of this tribal group are very fond of ornaments such as bead necklaces, armllets, bangles, earrings, and nose rings.



Tribal women in general would not make any sort of complaint about their husbands. Mostly, they remain shy and silent. Perhaps, the women have not experienced any domination and harassment by male folk and husbands, nor could they visualize such a situation in their wildest imagination. Literacy is almost nil among tribal communities. But these days the government provides themm



any opportunities to become educated. They prefer early marriage. The main intention behind getting married at an early age is to give the girl basic training about housework. As most of the elders are busy with farming, they need someone to look after the cooking at home.

There is a peculiar and distinct aspect to their system of marriage. A woman in the age group of 16 to 20 years marries a male in the age group of 12 to 14 years. This is how relatively mature women exercise control over their husbands. Usually, older girls prefer to marry younger boys, so that the latter can earn for them when the former grow old.

Among all tribes, both male and female members are economically self-dependent. Both of them work and earn for their family. Therefore, male members' domination over women folk is not found as both enjoy approximate economic equality. No discrimination is known to be made on the grounds of sex. No preferences are attached to either of the sexes.



Unlike the dowry system prevalent in the mainstream culture in India, tribal bodies give valuables at the time of the marriage ceremony. Thus, the brides become distinct beneficiaries.

The tribal women live in a stable, tolerant, and humane society, which does not discriminate on the basis of gender. They follow and practice the principles of feminism spontaneously. This has been possible in these tribal communities due to equality on the economic front. Tribal society has a very primitive lifestyle and attitude. It remains far away from the development achieved by the modern world. But despite their backwardness, they are found to be much ahead of the non-hill people in some respects. They are natural feminists. In that sense, they are really modern though they may appear primitive.

Brahmakumaris' Workshop



Responses from participants

On 12th March, a Motivational Workshop was organised with Dr. Aditi Singhal of the Brahmakumaris at Head Office. The response from the participants was very heartening.

Here is a sampler:

In the month of March, I participated in a very experiential learning workshop organized at AIWC Head Office especially for Office staff. Dr. Aditi Singhal from Brahma Kumari's Ashram facilitated the workshop. She is an international memory trainer, motivational speaker and Vedic math expert par excellence. She has also been awarded three National Records by the Limca Book of Records and been given The Best Memory Trainer award by the India Book of Records.

I must say it was a very meaningful workshop because while living with the modern working lifestyle we sometimes forget to respect the dignity of our fellow beings. Modern and fast paced lifestyle has given us shared co-working spaces, but on the other hand it is crucial to know that we

are abandoning the moral values which we have learnt in our childhood.

This workshop has given me a sense of fulfillment that we can avoid or cut down certain negative tendencies within ourselves and we should approach life with the attitude of saying Thank You to the other person because no matter what is your situation, by saying "Thank you," and showing gratitude to the other person you can win his/her heart. Respect, gratitude, healthy learning and non-judgmental spaces build up healthy surroundings at the work place. So from the workshop I learned to discipline my ethical values and be non-judgmental and to enjoy each and every task at my workplace fully.

--by Pratibha Aarya, Program Officer

- i) We must avoid gossip and have direct communication with the concerned.**
- ii) Our ego, limiting beliefs and thought patterns create unhealthy relations with others.**

- iii) **We cannot expect to change the other's behavior, we can only change ourselves by having inner peace.**
- iv) **We should not let the other person's behavior disturb us.**
- v) **We must change our perspective about others by focusing on positive and good things in others. Hence, we can establish harmonious and good relations with others.**

Thank you dear AIWC family for organizing such an event on 12th March 2020.

By Poonam Gupta, Executive Secretary.

I really liked the way JAM as an acronym was put forward. JAM is always considered a negative connotation considering; it eats your time, energy/fuel etc.

After having spent an hour understanding the positive side of it, I feel it's different. It's rather an opportunity for us to Relax, Reflect and Recharge!

Sharing my understanding about the concept:

Red-Stop-Relax The key to control here lies in the choices we make about how to manage ourselves in three domains- Language, Emotion and Body. It's my inner self who should be at the forefront, rather than reacting to the outer world/situation.

Yellow-Rethink-Reflect It's all about being cautious and carefully analyzing the situation before we react. Three important elements to be kept in mind while doing so are Check, Choose and Change.

Green-Thoughtful-Recharge The ultimate idea is to start creating positive thoughts. It's my mind, I should be the one deciding what to think and

how to react. The moment I have mastery over my mind, I will be able to control.

I also liked the way Dr. Singhal explained about a mother's feeling when her children say no to food prepared by her due to different reasons.

This happens with me quite often. Both my sons are working and prefer to have food outside whenever they are expected to stay out for longer than usual office hours.

I used to get disturbed earlier whenever I heard them saying no. I used to react without giving it a thought as to why they would say no to food. After all, I am a mother, it's very difficult for me to control my emotions. For me, they should eat because I have prepared, it's my way of making them feel better after having spent a demanding day at office.

After listening to Dr. Singhal, I realized that there is an area of improvement in the way I am dealing with the situation. We should be progressive and not be bogged down due to this. To correct it, we started to have discussions around their work pressure, how things are progressing at professional front and how they are coping up with that. During this discussion, my younger son mentioned about his company serving food to all employees who stay beyond defined time. He also mentioned about the good quality and variety of food, thereby convincing my soul, they are being taken care of :)

That half an hour conversation gave me all the confidence that was required to pacify my soul and I would like to thank Dr. Singhal for showing us the way to come out of that disturbing situation.

By Lily Arora, PA to President

अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद द्वारा 12 मार्च 2020 को आयोजित कार्यक्रम जिसमें ब्रह्मकुमारी की डॉक्टर अदिति सिंघल ने मानव संबंधों के बारे में बताया यह कार्यक्रम पूरी तरह से साकारात्मक व स्वस्थ सोच से भरपूर था डॉक्टर अदिति जी द्वारा बताई गई बातें जो मानव संबंधों से संबंधित थी उन्हें ध्यान पूर्वक सुनकर और इसमें भाग लेकर मैंने अपने व्यवहार व सोच को बदलने के प्रति ज्ञान प्राप्त किया।

मैंने जो अर्जित किया वह निम्न प्रकार है:

- सामने वाले के प्रति जो आपकी भावना है वह अपनी पसंद के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए ना कि दूसरे के व्यवहार पर निर्भर होनी चाहिए।
- उम्मीद रखने की बजाय स्वीकार करना सीखना चाहिए।
- छोटी-छोटी नकारात्मक बातें जो दूसरों के प्रति हैं उन्हें अपने दिमाग से निकालना चाहिए।
- अपने कार्यस्थल का माहौल ऐसा बनाएं कि अगर दो व्यक्ति के बीच समस्या आ गई है तो बात करना बंद ना करें वरना नकारात्मक ऊर्जा आ जाती है सकारात्मक सोच के साथ रिश्तो को खूबसूरत बनाए और आगे बढ़े।
- अपनी विशेषताओं को दूसरे की वजह से नहीं छेड़ना है।
- डॉक्टर अदिति सिंघल जी ने यह भी बताने की कोशिश की कि किस तरह से एक सच्ची कहानी का स्वरूप

पहले व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति तक पहुंचते-पहुंचते बदल जाता है। अर्थात् दूसरों के द्वारा सुनी हुई बात के आधार पर पूर्ण निर्णय नहीं लेना चाहिए क्योंकि उस के स्वरूप में परिवर्तन की गुंजाइश हो सकती है

मेरी भावनाओं की अभिव्यक्ति इस अनुभव को लेकर कुछ इस प्रकार है

1. यह मेरे लिए एक ज्ञानवर्धक अनुभव रहा।
2. अदिति सिंगल की बातों ने मेरे में रिश्तो को लेकर एक नई ऊर्जा प्रदान की है।
3. यह कार्यक्रम व्यवहारिक, आश्वस्त और वास्तव में सहायक रहा।

— मोनिका चतुर्वेदी,
(एफसीसी परामर्शदाता—बपनू घर)

AIWC द्वारा आयोजित 12 मार्च 2020 को डॉक्टर अदिति सिंघल (दीदी) का कार्यक्रम बहुत ही प्रेणादाय कथा जिससे मुझे सीख मिलती है कि संसार के हर एक व्यक्ति की इज्जत करनी चाहिए। चाहे वह व्यक्ति किसी भी ओहदे का हो। किसी का भी काम छोटा नहीं होता है। जरूरत पडने पर हमें उनकी कमी महसूस होती है और हर व्यक्ति समय आने पर काम आते है हमे किसी के कार्य की निंदा नहीं करनी चाहिए।

— एस. एस. सलीम

Communal Harmony and National Integration A Program by AIWC Rajkot

By Dr. Bhavna Joshipura (Vice President AIWC and President Rajkot Branch)

AIWC Rajkot Branch successfully organized an important programme on National Integration, on 27th February 2020, at NFDD Auditorium Saurashtra University, Rajkot. The occasion received an overwhelming response from a cross-section of society from Gujarat and other states. Leaders from different faiths and religions reflected the basic concept of National Integration by remaining present throughout the day. Perhaps this is the first time that six Vice-Chancellors have actively participated in a National Level Seminar. It was also significant that the Executive Council member from Maulana Azad Urdu University, Hyderabad, Governing Board Member from NMML (Ministry of Culture, GOI) and Academic Council Members from three Central Universities and other State Universities have actively participated in different sessions.

Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, All India Vice-President of AIWC and President, AIWC Rajkot, coordinated the entire event under the guidance of Hon. National President Smt. Sheela Kakde. MIC Dr. Manju Kak gave very good inputs also.

The main objective of the Conference was to truly stand against all separatist tendencies and to promote greater national integration and



unity, enshrined as one of the major objectives in AIWC constitution. We were fortunate to have Department of Law, Saurashtra University, Rajkot as the Knowledge partner for this national level Seminar.

The main theme of the conference was "Strengthening National Integration through Collaborative Social Initiatives." The eternal values enshrined in Indian culture are a guiding force for the entire world in building a harmonious society. At the macro level there is universal agreement that NGOs and Education are necessary for the development of a harmonious society, which in turn is the promoter of national economic development, agent of social and political change, facilitator of



international cooperation and catalyst of all-round social development.

Slogans of the Conference were, "Celebrate Diversity. Unity follows" and "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

The Coordination Committee comprised of leading social workers and academicians, led by the Chief Coordinator, Dr. Bhavna Joshipura.

The manner in which inter-faith religious leaders put forth the theme of National unity had a very good effect throughout Saurashtra - Gujarat. Electronic and Print Media gave wide publicity to this National event.

Eminent speakers included

1. Smt. Sheela Kakde – Hon. President AIWC, New Delhi
2. Prof. Nitinkumar Pethani – Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Saurashtra University
3. Prof. Chetan Trivedi – Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Bhakt Kavi Narsinh Mehta University – Junagadh

4. Dr. Bhavna Joshipura – All India Vice President, AIWC, New Delhi
5. Dr. Sanjeev Oza – Former Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Ayurved University
6. Pujya Nikhileshvaranandaji Swamiji – President, Ramkrishna Mission – Rajkot
7. Father James Thyal – Bishop's House
8. Salim Tejani – The Mukhi Saheb of Aga Khan Community
9. Prof. Dr. Bharat Ramanuj – EC member, Maulana Azad Urdu Central University, Hyderabad
10. Major Jalmeetsingh Dhillon – President Sikh Sangat Sabha, Rajkot
11. Dr. Manju Kak – MIC, Peace and Communal Harmony – AIWC

Special highlights

An excellent exhibition of posters on National Integration was organised by students of Saurashtra and out-of-Gujarat colleges at the venue.

- College students wearing colourful costumes of different states welcomed each guest.
- A Skit i.e. Laghu Natika, was enacted under the guidance of Principal Dr. Minalben Rawal, Principal of the Law College in the context of national solidarity, which won the hearts of all the guests.
- As per the concept of Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, a Clean India campaign and a message of

peace and brotherhood as well as a drama in respect of National Unity were also performed. The play, which portrayed the kind of National Integration that is especially seen in the Indian Army was also highly appreciated, performed by Smt. Komal Kapasi and students of KSN Kansagara College.

- Excellent and exemplary representation from different walks of life.
- It was decided to organise such events at other university centres also.

A total of 39 Research Papers were presented on the Conference Theme, of which 25 were in English and 14 in vernacular languages.

Recommendations and Declarations:

There will be regular coordination meetings of all stake holders at regular Intervals. There will be joint efforts by NGOs and Educational Institutions for establishing National Integration and Communal Harmony in various areas. Proliferation of Moral Education in Institutions of Higher and Doctoral Education with the aim of promoting National Integration amongst the youth and students. Periodic review of societal situation on local and national platforms with



a view to evaluating and strengthening bonds amongst citizens. Regular programmes on social harmony through street plays and other activities in urban slums and mofussil areas to increase Communal Harmony and National Integration by NGO's and Educational Institutions. Regular Alumni meet for National Integration. Enhancement of Inter-Faith meetings to fulfil the idea of "Strengthening National Integration through Collaborative Social Initiatives" in citizens. Expansion and extension of Rajkot Summit at different Institutional levels in Saurashtra- Gujarat. Oath taking ceremony at the time of commencement of the new academic term. Formation of permanent advisory working group focused on promotion and preservation of National Integration and Communal Harmony.

Communal Harmony and National Integration Bound by Cultural Threads of Creativity A Program by Lucknow Branch

By Kum. Pratibha Arya (Program Officer)

A IWC Lucknow Branch, Uttar Pradesh conducted a programme on National Integration on 2nd March 2020, at College Auditorium of Avadh Girls' P.G College. The event was graced by Hon. Treasurer AIWC Smt. Rehana Begum and MIC Media and Publicity Smt. Meenakshi Kumar. Lucknow Branch had an



innovative seminar to foster National Integration and Communal Harmony, which chose to take a look at the culture of our country, and specially Lucknow, as a rich tapestry where the warp and the weft are intrinsically pluralistic. They truly stand against all separatist tendencies and promote greater National Integration. Eminent panelists like Smt. Runa Banerjee, an Indian social worker and the co-founder of the Self Employed Women's Association, Lucknow, Mr. Ravi Kapoor photo artist, Dr. Prashant Shukla, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Lucknow, Smt. Vidushi Shruti Sadoliker Katker, the finest exponent of Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana and Vice-chancellor Bhatkhande of Music University etc. shared their views. The session was based on sharing of real-life experiences by artists, artisans, musicians, women activists, NGOs, workers

and academicians in Lucknow. It focused on the uniqueness of the Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb model of Communal Harmony for which Lucknow is famous. The seminar was very interactive. All sessions combined academic papers with personal testimonies laced with performances and audio-visual presentations. Nearly 250 participants including students, research scholars and teachers participated and learnt about the cherished values of living together.

AIWC Head office truly stands against all separatist tendencies, to promote greater National Integration and unity as mentioned in its Constitution. Our aim is to inculcate harmony amongst members of different communities through workshops, seminars and cultural programmes that will arouse the sentiments of peaceful co-existence in our fellow beings.

Orientation Program

4th-5th March 2020 at AIWC HEAD OFFICE

By Smt. Supriya Bhalerao (Joint Secretary AIWC)

The election process for the term 2020-23 was completed by end of January 2020. The new President, Smt. Sheela Kakde, a dynamic, hard-working lady with ample experience of working as an office bearer at the Center, and relatively younger than the earlier presidents, has a vision of her own! She gave a new perspective to the Orientation Course that is generally conducted for the elected Vice presidents and the nominated Zonal organizers. This year, she included the elected Joint secretary and two nominated Assistant Secretaries in the participants' list, and most importantly, added three programmes on issues of national concern to the list of the AIWC's regular programmes. These were 1) Save the Planet/Save the Earth, 2) SwachhBharat, and 3) Violence against Women, as Pilot projects. It is indeed the need of the hour!

On Day 1 of the Course, basic sessions were held only for the Vice presidents and the Zonal Organizers. On Day 2, the 3 Pilot Projects were discussed by the respective Members-in-charge. Many other local Members-in-charge, as well as



some seniors were also present.

On Day 1, the proceedings began with the lighting of the lamp followed by a melodious prayer from Guru Granth Saheb, recited by the Secretary General, Smt. Kuljit Kaur, who also explained the meaning of the verses.

Smt. Sheela Kakde, President, welcomed the participants. She started her Power Point presentation with the History of AIWC, and orientation of Vice Presidents and Zonal Organisers. The briefing included How to form branches, Proforma of Affiliation of Branches to the Centre, Zones of AIWC, the roles and responsibilities of the Zonal Organizers, visits to and inspection of Branches, Proforma of Branch information, etc.

Smt. Biji Sebastian, the Finance Manager gave the next presentation. She explained how the ZOs and Branches should keep their accounts. For conducting any programme - drafting a Budget estimate, getting a sanction from HO, conducting the programme, and then submitting





the programme report and Accounts report - is necessary. Lastly, the President gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Working Pattern and Guidelines for Branch Office Bearers”. Zone allotment to the Vice presidents was finalized.

Day 2 highlighted the Pilot Projects:

Session 1: Mrs Kalyani Raj, MIC, Environment and Climate Change on ‘Save Planet-Save Earth’ Pilot project 1. The subject was Environment and Climate Change challenges in India.

Session 2: Mrs Rekha Rajwade on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan – Pilot project 2, the subject was How Indore Became No. 1.

Session 3: (in 2 parts)

- 1) Mrs Kuljit Kaur on Violence against women – Pilot project 3, the subject was Women’s Safety and Gender Sensitization.
- 2) Dr. Upasana Singh, MIC - Sexual Harassment and Atrocities on Women - she quoted different sections of Law and presented many cases, e.g. ‘No Women shall be subjected to Sexual Harassment at any Workplace’ - [sec 3(1)].

Asst. Programme Officer Smt. Ritu, gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Strategies of Three Pilot Projects”. Committees were formed for all

three pilot projects. The Zonal Organisers were provided laptops and all participants were given the course material in Pen drives. This not only saved paper, but the participants could concentrate on listening, rather than taking notes. No missing out on any points! The Treasurer Smt. Rehana Begum proposed a Vote of thanks and the course concluded.

The sessions were very well-presented, in a thoroughly professional manner. The course was immensely useful for me, being a new entrant in the AIWC’s Central system.

The Orientation Programme was a great success. We received the following feedback from some of the participants:

Kalpana Roy Zonal Organiser, Eastern Zone A

The two-day conference was an outstanding experience. On the first day, the main discussion was how to form branches. Then the discussion was on the role and responsibilities of Zonal Organizers. Many other important things were also discussed, like the working pattern and guidelines for Office Bearers of Branches, discussions on zone divisions, Accounts etc.

On the second day, three portfolios were discussed with great presentations.

Swachhata Abhiyan presented by Smt. Rekha Rajwade

Save Our Planet presented by Smt. Kalyani Raj.

Sexual Harassment presented by Dr. Upasana Singh

Zonal Committees were formed for the smooth maneuvering of these three portfolios that are very contemporary and the need of the day.

Our planet is going through a climate disaster. To save our present and our future, we must take sincere steps to save our blue planet for our existence.

Sexual Harassment and Atrocities on Women is a serious problem. It is time to speak out and act. We gained well researched and minutely observed knowledge regarding this heinous problem.

Finally, I would like to thank all present at the AIWC conference for a memorable opportunity to be present among you dedicated hearts. You give me the cause to strive more and more even in my old age.

Dr. B K D Varaprasadini
Zonal Organiser South Zone A

In the inaugural session Hon. President explained about three pilot projects:

1. Save the Earth, 2. Swacch Bharat and 3. Prevention of Violence against Women.

After the inaugural session, she narrated the history of AIWC, saying that all the branches should know about the history of AIWC. She also asked the Vice President to visit the branches and make it a point to share the history of AIWC during their visit. Later she described the various

roles and responsibilities of Zonal Organisers and how to form the branches. When ZO's visited the branches, she narrated how to check records and behave with Branch office bearers. In the same manner she explained the respective duties and responsibilities to be shared by Vice Presidents, Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretaries.

On 5th morning after breakfast, she took us around the premises of our Head Office, and told us about the various building renovations and repairs being undertaken.

We three newcomers (Prasadini, Vidya and Ashwini) learnt a lot from this program. We have been given a very good opportunity to serve the organisation and we are very lucky-- it's a great privilege to work with such a dynamic President.

With her guidance and encouragement we came back to our homes in good working spirit. We are determined to prove our efficacy as Zonal Organisers during our tenure, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 we are not able to do all the work expected from us.

But even in this Pandemic situation, she is encouraging us to continue with our WhatsApp groups, and Zoom Meetings. It is a good experience.

Sheela Satyanarayan
Assistant Secretary

First of all a Big Thank you to the Office Bearers for including the Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretaries in the Orientation Program for the first time.

Though many of us are involved in doing specific work in AIWC, the entire functioning of AIWC is not known to us. It was a great opportunity for us to learn.

We were really charged up with enthusiasm to do good work. Unfortunately due to the current situation we can only contribute from home in whatever capacity we can.

Let us hope we will soon come out of this situation and carry out our responsibilities more diligently.

Shevata Rai Talwar **Assistant Secretary**

My joie-de-vivre knew no bounds and it was “like coming back home” (being a second generation member) when our honorable, warm and caring President Smt. Sheela Khakde and her dynamic team appointed me Assistant Secretary in the Head Office, and gave the Joint and Assistant Secretaries a renewed zeal of working and

involving themselves more actively with HO.

The Orientation Programme started on the dot of time with a prayer. AIWC is a true embodiment of National Integration with a Hindu President, a Sikh Secretary General and a Muslim Treasurer .

Our President Madam was now in her avatar of a leader. She introduced the session and clearly pointed out her expectations from us .The rich heritage of AIWC which was our backbone was to be highlighted and disseminated to every branch and its members all over the country .

India being a land of colors and festivals the coming festival of Holi was celebrated by us by showering a little organic vegetable color and savouring the famed Gujiya sweet.

अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद के द्वारा आयोजित ओरिएंटेशन प्रोग्राम में तीन प्रमुख लक्ष्यों 'दक स्वच्छ भारत, जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं महिला सुरक्षा जैसे मुद्दों का प्रेजेंटेशन प्रभावी ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया गया। शाखाओं के द्वारा किये जाने वाले कार्यों के लिए एक्शन प्लान की गाइडलाइन प्रस्तुत की गई। प्रेसिडेंट श्रीमती शीला काकड़े के द्वारा उक्त तीनों ज्वलंत मुद्दों पर जो विजन हमें बताया वह निश्चित रूप से समाज और देश को बदलाव की ओर ले जाने में कामयाब रहेंगे। उन्होंने AIWC की शाखाओं और कांस्टीट्यूट शाखाओं के दायित्वों का भी स्पष्टरूप से उल्लेख किया। कार्यशाला के माध्यम से मुख्य कार्यालय की कार्य प्रणाली सभी पदाधिकारियों के कार्यों के बारे में जानकारी हासिल हुई। कार्यशाला में विभिन्न परियोजनाओं की जानकारी के साथ साथ उसकी प्लानिंग से लेकर परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन व उसके परिणामों के आंकलन को समझने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ जिससे सभी वाईस प्रेसिडेंट एवं आर्गनाइजर अपने अपने क्षेत्र की शाखाओं का मार्गदर्शन उसीके अनुसार कर सकते हैं।

मेरा मानना है कि कुछ अन्तराल के बाद इस प्रकार का ओरिएन्टेशन प्रोग्राम के साथ रिव्यूमीटिंग भी आयोजित होनी चाहिए। एनुअल एवं हाफ ईयरली कॉन्फेंस में पार्टिसिपेंट्स अधिक होने व समय के अभाव की वजह से गहनचर्चा होना मुश्किल होता है।

कार्यशाला में सेक्रेटरी जनरल एवं ट्रेजरर की कार्य प्रणाली एवं कर्तव्यों की भी हमें जानकारी प्राप्त हुई।

कार्यक्रम में नई शाखा खोलने एवं उसे सम्बद्धता के नियमों, प्रक्रिया को ठीक से समझाता कि नई शाखा का प्रस्तावना कर प्रस्तुत करने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं हो। जोनल आर्गनाइजर के द्वारा शाखाओं के अवलोकन के समय ध्यान में रखने योग्य बातों को विस्तार से बताया गया।

इस कार्यशाला में सभी विभागों के प्रभारी भी उपस्थित होने की वजह से विभागों के विषय में परस्पर चर्चा करने का मौका मिला, विभाग के अनुसार उनका मार्ग दर्शन व सेक्रेटरी जनरल कुलजीत कौर के द्वारा कार्यालय की कार्यप्रणाली, शाखाओं के लिए मार्गदर्शन एवं कार्यक्रमों

परियोजनाओं के बारे में जो जानकारी दी गई वो वास्तव में बहुत व्यवहारिक थी। आमतौर पर शाखाओं को प्रोजेक्ट को ठीक से बनाने व उसकी रिपोर्ट बनाने में कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है जिसे कार्यक्रम अधिकारी ऋतु ने पावर पॉइन्ट प्रजेंटेशन के द्वारा समझाया। ट्रेजरर रेहाना बेगम ने वित्तीय प्रावधानों, कार्यक्रमों के हिसाब को प्रस्तुत करने के तरीकों के बारे में बताया जिसे वित्त प्रबंधक अधिकारी बीजी ने प्रेजेंटेशन के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत किया। निर्धारित तीनों लक्ष्यों के बारे में कल्याणी जी के द्वारा जलवायु परिवर्तन में हमारी भूमिका को बताया, महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के मुद्दे पर सेक्रेटरी जनरल कुलजीत कोर व

उपासना सिंह के द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रेजेंटेशन से महिलाओं के खिलाफ हो रही हिंसा तथा उनकी सुरक्षा के उपायों को प्रभावी ढंग से बताया गया। स्वच्छ भारत के अंतर्गत रेखाराज वाड़े द्वारा इंदौर का मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया गया जिससे प्रेरित होकर हमारी शाखाएं अपना एक्शन प्लान तैयार कर सकती हैं।

इस कार्यशाला से हम सभी को एक दूसरे को जानने समझने का मौका मिला।

संतोष अग्रवाल वाइस प्रेसीडेंटए अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद, नई दिल्ली

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मा. अध्यक्षा अखिल भारतीय महिला परिषद, नई दिल्ली

महोदया, मैं अश्विनी क्षिरसागर, ZO महाराष्ट्र, आपको 4 मार्च और 5 मार्च को Orientation Programme दिल्ली में हुआ था उस Program का मेरी तरफ से मैं रिपोर्ट करती हूँ।

सबसे पहले Programme का उद्घाटन द्वीप प्रज्वलन करते हुए हमारी AIWC को नई अध्यक्षा श्रीमती शीलाजी काकड़े ने किया। उसमें नई अध्यक्षा V.P. Secretary, ZO Treasure उन सबका परिचय करते हुए। Programme कि शुरुआत हुई। इस कार्यक्रम से हम सबको बहुत अच्छी जानकारी मिल गयी है। क्योंकि किसके लिए हमें काम करना है कैसा करना है उसके नियम क्या है, उसके कानून क्या है इस हर एक की जानकारी हमें मिल गयी और साथ में AIWC क्या है उसकी भी बहुत सारी जानकारी मिल गयी। हमें काम करते हुए कोई समस्या आ गई तो कैसे हल करेंगे, ये भी मालूम पड़ा। अगर कोई नई शाखा हमें शुरू करनी है, तो किस तरह से शुरू करेंगे, और वो शाखा किस तरह से हमेशा कार्य में रहेगी। उनकी Meeting कैसे ले सकते हैं उनको काम करने के लिए Funding किस तरे से मिल सकता है इसकी भी

जानकारी हमें मिल गई। जो Funding मिलेगा वो किस काम के लिए मिलेगा ये भी मालूम पड़ा। ZO और VP एक दूसरे में कैसे जुड़े हैं ये हमें समझाया गया। कल्याण राज मैडम ने आज के Pollution के बारे में Slide Show दिखाए और उसका विश्लेषण भी अच्छी तरह से कर दिया और हमको समझाया कि उसकी वजह क्या है। हम क्या करते हैं और हमें क्या करना है ताकी हम Pollution कम करने में हमारा भी कुछ हिस्सा होगा। उन्होंने हमसे कुछ हमारी क्या राय है इसके बारे में हमसे सवाल किए। बहुत अच्छी आपस में चर्चा हुई।

रेखा राजवाड़े जो इंदौर सिटी की हैं उन्होंने स्वच्छता अभियान के बारे में बहुत अच्छा Slide Show दिखाकर हमें जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा Presentation करके किस तरह हम भी कर सकते हैं ये बताया। सरकार की मदद लेकर हम हमारे यहां अभियान कर सकते हैं, ऐसा आत्मविश्वास हमें दिलाया। दो दिन के प्रोग्राम ने हमें बहुत कुछ सिखाया है। बहुत अच्छी जानकारी मिली। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद,

अश्विनी क्षिरसागर, महाराष्ट्र

आदरणीय शीला काकड़े जी, अध्यक्ष, ए. आइ. डब्ल्यू. सी 4 व 5 मार्च 2020 को AIWC दिल्ली Head Office में आयोजित Orientation Programme का अनुभव साझा करने का अवसर आपने प्रदान किया इसके लिए मैं आपकी आभारी हूँ।

मैंने प्रथम बार AIWC कार्यकारिणी में Zonal Organiser के रूप में पद ग्रहण किया है। इस कार्यक्रम में आपके मार्गदर्शन से अपने पद संबंधी जिम्मेदारियां व कार्य-प्रणाली को विस्तार से जाना जो कि भविष्य में काम करने में सहायक होगी। अपने Zone की किसी ब्रांच में Visit के दौरान किन-किन कागजों का अवलोकन करना है सदस्यों से किस तरह Coordinate करना है तथा Social

Project संबंधी जानकारियों के विषय में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी मिली। विभिन्न विषयों पर वक्ताओं द्वारा वार्ता अत्यन्त ही ज्ञानवर्धक थीं।

श्रीमती कुलजीत कौर जी तथा कोषाध्यक्ष श्रीमती रेहाना बेगम जी के निर्देश भी अमूल्य थे।

इसके अतिरिक्त सभी प्रतिभागियों से मिलने-जुलने का तथा परस्पर एक दूसरे को जानने का साथ ही उनकी शाखा द्वारा किये जा रहे सामाजिक कार्यों व गतिविधियों को जानने का अवसर मिला। ये दो दिन सुखद, महत्वपूर्ण व ज्ञानवर्धक रहे।

शुभकामनाओं सहित,

निशी जैन



Zonal Organisers- Ashwini Kshirsagar, Usha Nair, Vidya Kumari Roy, Kalpana Roy, Sumi Chopra, Nishi Jain, VaraPrasadini with Office bearers

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Mahila Mandal, Malad, Mumbai Branch

*President -Smt. Harsha Ladhani
MIC, Female Foeticide and Save the Girlchild*

Report On 'Aao, Bachaye Teen Mataye'

On the occasion of 'International Women's Day', Mahila Mandal, Malad-AIWC organized 3 seminars on a new project named- **Aao, Bachaye Teen Mataye**.

1. Annevali Mata...Save a Girlchild
2. Dharatimata...Save Mother Earth (Environment)
3. Aur Sarita...Save Rivers...Save Water

Speakers:

1. Smt. Harsha Ladhani-MIC Female Foeticide and Save a Girlchild, President-Mumbai Branch
2. Smt. Sunita Gujral-Secretary Malad, AIWC
3. Smt. Pragna Kotecha-Secretary Malad, AIWC

Seminars were conducted in 3 colleges:

1. On 7th March,2020, at Niranjana Majithia College, Kandivali...210 students benefitted.
2. On 9th March,2020, at Mittal College, Kanchpada...seminar attended by 240 students.
3. On 12th March, 2020, at M.D. Shah Mahila College, Malad...about 300 students benefitted.

1. Subject 'Annevali Mata-Save a Girlchild' was explained by Smt. Harsha Ladhani. She

expounded the drastic decline in the sex ratio with data-based information on PPT. She emphasized her views that daughters are the milestone of the family, giving perfect direction to society as well as to the nation. She also performed a skit 'Betiyapyari'-written by her.

2. Subject 'Dharatimata-Save Mother Earth' was explained by Smt. Sunita Gujral, Secretary-Malad, AIWC. According to her, we should stop using plastic, stop making many types of pollutants etc. She gave an idea to make seed-balls to throw on the roadside while travelling, to grow plants.It will help rain to shower and again to grow more trees thus the cycle will go on.

3. Subject 'Sarita-Save Rivers...save water' was expressed by Smt. Pragna Kotecha, Secretary-Malad, AIWC. She informed that 97% of our Planet is covered with Salt Water that we cannot use. Of the 3% left, 2% is also blocked by Glaciers and Ice caps. So only 1% of water is for our use. Therefore, water should be meticulously harnessed and carefully conserved. She also explained easy ways to save water including rain water harvesting.

This seminar on the new project 'Aao, Bachaye, Teen Mataye'was a grand success and was appreciated by the College Managements.

Niranjana Majithia College



Mittal College



M.D. Shah Mahila College



Ujjawal Women's Association, Delhi

Vice President- Dr. Yuthika Mishra



Class in Old Delhi Center

The Ujjawal Women's Association (UWA) is more than thirty years young now and in keeping with its tradition of youthful vigour in all activities, its three permanent projects are running full steam ahead. The most prized project is the Dropout Children's programme being run in Old Delhi under the capable guidance of one of our very senior members Smt. Sushil Nigam. This is



Dress Designing Class in Mandavali

run with the help of local people who are donating books, stationery and other material essential to carry on the mentoring of the dropouts and hence enabling them to catch up with life. The other two projects are the Stitching and Tailoring unit in Mandavali and the Dress Designing workshop in Pandav Nagar in East Delhi under the capable guidance of our members, Smt. Monica Gupta and



Old Delhi Centre childrens drawing competition



Tailoring Class in Pandav Nagar

Smt. Rashmi Nigam. These are highly popular amongst the local girls.

A very heartening piece of news for UWA members and for the whole of AIWC is the election of our Secretary, Smt. Kuljit Kaur as the Secretary General of AIWC in the elections held in January 2020. We wish her a very successful innings as the Secretary General of the prime women's organization.

On March 13th, 2020 we were about to have the felicitation programme of twenty-four of our brilliant achievers. These are girls who have become self-dependent and in fact are supporting their families. This programme could not be held as the directives for social distancing due to Corona virus outbreak were announced by the Government and this event had to be postponed. However, as soon as the situation improves, we shall go ahead with this programme.

Vikas Mahila Sangam, Mayur Vihar Phase 2

Secretary – Smt. Sapna Acharya

Plantation Drive by Members

Climate change is causing a natural disaster. We have lost vegetation and forests in different parts of India. If no measures are taken, the average temperature of India is predicted to increase. The solution to these problem is the plantations of trees.

In our efforts to heal the environment, members of Vikas Mahila Sangam initiated the plantation drive of Neem Trees at Mayur Vihar Phase-2. Provision was made to nurture each plant personally. Women are rearing and caring for humanity, that's why women have the vulnerable ability to save the earth by planting trees. Meticulous planning was made by the executive

members of VMS and work started to plant 25 neem trees around the open areas and road side of M.V-2. Supervision work is still continuing for better results of the project.

In the near future, these trees will help in solving water probleSmt. Our new generation will get good air quality for breathing. We will get a green and clean environment. Though small in numbers our members will take action against climate change. Tree planting and rearing of today will save the planet. Women are the change makers against the dire consequences of climate change. So, for all these reasons we moved with a strong determination for a better environment by planting trees around our region.

Greater Noida Branch

Our branch participated in the Noida Flower Show on 21st February. A skit on environment awareness was performed by our team members in very simple and entertaining manner. Free plants

were distributed in exchange for plastic bottles and polythene.

Our branch is committed to spread awareness about energy conservation and pollution control.

President --Dr. Upasana Singh



Jagrati Women's Conference, Haridwar

International Women's Day was celebrated on 7th March 2020, in which we organised four programs. Firstly, a yoga experience: Smt. Monica Garg taught various yoga mudras which are very beneficial for remaining healthy. Secondly, Smt. Mona Verma delivered a lecture

on Anger Management in an extremely simple way to empower women. Thirdly, we honored Smt. Shubhangi Gupta who secured 11th position in the Uttarakhand Judicial Services 2019. Lastly we celebrated Holi with flowers and by singing Holi songs.

Secretary – Dr. Karuna Sharma



Salt Lake Branch

Secretary – Smt. Bubu Basu



Salt Lake Constituent Branch opened an SE-waste Collection Point in collaboration with Hulladek Recycler, on 24th January. The

beneficiary, Reshmi Khatun and four boys can be observed in the photographs, painting graffiti for mass education.



Garia Mahamayatala Jadavpur Constituent Branch

President – Smt. Basudha Ganguly



Garia Mahamayatala Jadavpur Constituent Branch arranged relief activities near Sundarbans South 24 Pargana in West Bengal in the aftermath of Cyclone Bulbul.

We found on arrival that the villages had been devastated by the cyclone as never before. More than 100 mud houses were totally destroyed and about 200 families were living in makeshift arrangements. Most of the mud houses were totally ruined. We distributed relief materials including 150 kg rice, 75 kg pulses, 300 new garments and 30 tarpaulins. We could provide provisions and clothes to 75 families, after which our stocks were exhausted. Another 30 families were given

tarpaulin for covering roofs. Tarpaulin sheets were in great demand, but unfortunately we did not have enough for all those who waited in the queue.



Raiganj Branch

Raiganj Branch International Women's Day Celebrations



Komaragiri Branch, Kakinada

President – Smt. Bhanuseshan



Inauguration of Komaragiri Branch – Smt. Sarojini Varadappan, Smt. Rakesh Dhawan, Dr. Manorma Bawa, Smt. Kalpakam Yechury and others

A Case Study

The branch of AIWC Kakinada was started on 24th June 2009. It was the eve of Birth Centenary celebrations of stalwart Durgabai Deshmukh, who had earlier adopted the weavers village. Welfare work among the poor and exploited weavers who produced the famous Uppada saris, had been started by Sh Tarakanamam, a retired engineer of TCIL, and his wife, a teacher. They had great difficulty in getting committed people to work in the village. After adoption of the village by the Social Welfare Board and later by AIWC, work was started in a systematic way by conducting a survey, preparing a socio- economic profile, and making a blueprint for activities.

AIWC also started Integrated Skill Development and Literacy programs, leading to overall improvement in the proficiency, and earnings of women. 10th class failed girls were given tuition, so that they passed their examinations and went on to study further, getting employment. Now prosperity has come to the village. Komaragiri weaving centres are on the international map, supplying saris and textiles both for consumers and the garment industry. The multi-pronged approach of AIWC transformed the profile of a sleepy village from one of chronic poverty, to that of a high profile textile production centre.

Suvarna Branch, Kozhikode

Fancy Fete – Exhibition–cum-sale
Organized on 8th February 2020
at Hotel Alakapuri.

This is one event we organise every year around the same time to raise funds for doing charity work.

“Suvarna”, the Kozhikode Chapter of the All India Women’s Conference (AIWC), New Delhi, organized a one-day Fancy Fete – Exhibition-cum-Sale for Women entrepreneurs at Hotel Alakapuri on 8th February 2019 from 9:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Hon’ble Mayor of Kozhikode District, Shri Thottathil Raveendran inaugurated the event. The meeting commenced with a Prayer, rendered by members of the Branch.

The objective of the Fancy Fete was to motivate and encourage women entrepreneurs to showcase their products, giving them an opportunity to enhance their reach and increase sales, offering them stalls at reasonable rates.

This year also the Fancy Fete resulted in an overwhelming response from entrepreneurs to put up stalls and also the general public visiting the Fete, which was quite encouraging. Due to space constraints, we could only allow 43 stalls showcasing a wide variety of items. A Games Stall by AIWC Members themselves was also set up. Of the 43 stalls, 10 were by members; 6 were sponsored stalls; and 27 non-members.

This year, the Branch members supported six



social and charitable organisations, including those working for the benefit of differently abled persons, encouraging them to put up stalls to enhance visibility to their products and activities. These institutions, whose stalls were sponsored by individual members of the Kozhikode Branch were: (1) Suman Research and Rehabilitation Centre - a day care cum rehabilitation centre for psychiatrically ill women from the poorer strata of society in need of occupational therapy; (2) Reach Vocational Enterprise; (3) Sukritham Girls Home; (4) Sakshama, an NGO working for the benefit of differently abled persons; (5) Prashanti School for Children with Special needs; and (6) the Palliative Care.

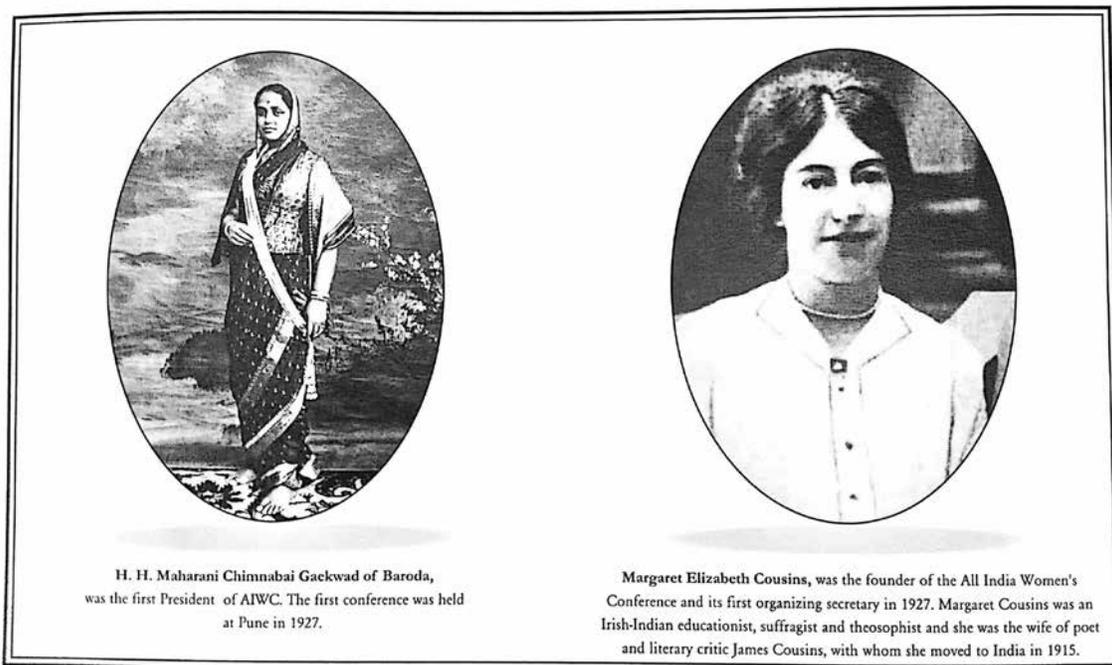
The stall rents were fixed at such a level that it is affordable to small entrepreneurs. The profits from the stalls had gone to the stall owners themselves. For the Branch the earning was only the stall rent and the proceeds after expenses is kept aside purely for undertaking charity works and donations for

social cause, through the year. A total amount of Rs 70,500 was received as rent and about Rs. 5000 from games stall and Lucky draw. After all expenses, an amount of Rs. 59,367 is available for conducting charity works of the Branch this year.

There were some issues faced by the organisers and also the participants. For the organisers, late receipt of stall rent; cancellation of stalls at the last minute; etc. created inconvenience. Lack of space and congestion; and positioning of food stalls near other stalls, wastage of food due to serving of same type of food etc. were issues faced by the participants. Based on these practical

problems, certain decisions were taken by the Executive Committee for further streamlining the organisation of the Fancy Fete.

Though both the halls were quite crowded at any given time, only about 300 persons had registered at the counter. It is estimated that over 500 persons may have visited the Stalls. Both participants and visitors and other members of the Branch had expressed their appreciation for the initiative. We also received encouraging feedback from the participating entrepreneurs, conveying their enthusiasm to participate in such events in future as well.



AIWC released its calendar for the year 2020 in the Annual Conference held at Manesar in January 2020. This is the first time that a calendar of archival photographs from the collection in its library, has been published by AIWC.

RPM Women's Welfare Association, Adambakkam, Chennai

Awareness Program on Menstrual Hygiene and Benefits of Biodegradable Sanitary Napkins

Awareness Program on Menstrual Hygiene and Benefits of Bio-degradable Sanitary Napkins on 15th February 2020

RPM Women's Welfare Association (RPMWWA), Adambakkam, Chennai, which was established 14 years ago, by a group of like-minded members, in an effort to give back to the Society, what little it can, have been conducting a series of Awareness Generation Programmes based on SDG Goals of the UN.

On 15th February 2020, we organised an Awareness Program on Menstrual Hygiene and Benefits of Bio-degradable Napkins, by Smt. Preethi Ramadoss, Research Scholar, Anna University, Chennai, based on a combination of Sustainable Development Goal-3 of the United Nations – Good health and Wellbeing (Women and Girls) and SDG 13 – Climate Action.

In this session, Smt. Preethi, who has developed Bio-degradable sanitary napkin in the lab, went on to explain the scientific details of her product, bad effects of commercial napkins on the health of women and kids, and how these non-degradable

napkins become an alarming threat to Mother Earth, leading to catastrophies. She also gave scientific explanations on why and how women and girls should maintain menstrual hygiene.

The session organised by RPMWWA, was graced by the esteemed presence of Smt. Padma Venkatraman, President, Women's Indian Association, Chennai. The program started with a welcome speech by our President, Smt. Preetha Raj, who after a short presentation about RPMWWA and its activities, gave a detailed introduction about our eminent Chief Guest, who in addition to holding prestigious positions representing India in other countries and the UN, is also an idealistic social worker and role model for all of us. The Guest Speaker was also meted out a warm welcome with proper introductions about her achievements in research. She also welcomed the audience, which included members of RPMWWA, and local women residents.

RPMWWA felicitated the Chief Guest and the Guest Speaker with simple mementos.

The Chief Guest, Smt. Padma Venkatraman, had suggested to our President to organise this particular session, by giving us a cue about Smt. Preethi, the research scholar in this domain. Smt. Padma, in her address, appreciated the efforts of RPMWWA in spreading awareness based on SDGs of the UN, and also encouraged us to continue our efforts in this sphere. She also invited all the members of RPMWWA to actively participate in various activities of WIA.



The Guest Speaker, Smt. Preethi Ramadoss, began her speech by sharing the scientific details of her discovery, the bio-degradable sanitary napkin. With the help of a power point presentation she could describe in detail, the components of a commercial napkin, its bad effects on the health of Women and Kids, and how it becomes hazardous to Mother Nature. It was a shocking realisation for all the attendees of the session, how the non-degradable plastic components and chemicals of the commercial napkins, create a coating on the soil in which it is disposed, and blocks water seepage into the soil. This in the long run becomes the reason for catastrophies like drought and floods. She also went on to explain how commercial napkins could cause health conditions like Poly Cystic Ovarian Disease, leading to infertility in women.

Smt. Preethi also explained about her other environment friendly discoveries, such as



degradable glucose monitor strips, which detect blood sugar levels from the sweat on the body, thus totally avoiding pricking for blood samples. She has also discovered a water filtration system which makes use of activated charcoal and helps in desalining hard water.

We the members of RPMWWA have taken vows to spread the awareness on Menstrual Hygiene to our kith and kin.

Sanju Women's Welfare Association WIA Branch, Chennai

President – Smt. Shanthi Socrates

Seedball Project Report

The Need for this Project

Sanju Women's Welfare Association initiated the 'Seedball Project' with the idea of fostering vacant and degraded lands. In addition we also aimed to fill up empty urban spaces with trees and plants. Through this initiative we decided to encourage reforestation across space and time.

Growing trees is a noble act of Kindness. It takes time and perseverance. While some seeds respond and germinate in the first rainy season, some wait for several years for the same.

About Seed Balls:

We make Seedballs/Earthballs combining clay and compost. The clay protects the seed from the heat





of the sun, wind, heavy rains, dehydration, also from birds rodents; the compost aids the seedling to grow against the odds. Our seedballs measure 5 cms in diameter. We use the Seed bombing technique to scatter seed balls. The seed's inbuilt sensors determines the best time to start growing.

About the Project:

Sanju Women's Welfare Association wanted to adopt a natural approach to reforestation. Our analysis proved that this Seed ball project would be the appropriate measure to expand our forest cover even in harsh environments. We match the seeds to their natural environment types. For example: highland, dryland, lakeshore, swamplands.

Since 2017, we have Seed bombed these districts: Chennai, Trichirappalli, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Perambalur. We have meticulously selected the trees and plant species, to easily adapt to the climate and soil conditions in each region. We do not throw these seed balls in places with inadequate growing conditions. Without sufficient

water, light and fertile soil, the plants will fail to anchor themselves and will eventually perish.

We have strewn 1500 seedballs in total so far. We also make it a point to include the General Public and School Students in our project to increase their responsibility towards the environment. The project, therefore, contributes to climate change mitigation at the micro level as well as benefits the health of community by oxygen generation.

Seedball Project and Women:

This project has not only included women but also encouraged their participation in each and every stage. Women from nearby towns and villages gathered the seeds and gave the seeds to us. Our association members along with their women friends and family members helped in making the seed balls. We bought compost from women who were a part of self-help groups. Women were educated about the merits of using the seedball technique along with the positive impact that seed balls have over climate change. Selling the seeds and compost also provides income to the village women who take the lead in providing a solution to climate issues.

Conclusion:

Sanju Women's Welfare Association believed that the community will knit closer through this project and has seen people from many backgrounds work together to create a greener earth. They worked towards one goal - throw seed balls to build a healthy livable environment.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that this project is a quicker and more effective method towards afforestation. This project restores ecological balance.

Rajkot Branch Visit

President visited Rajkot Branch on 29th February.

Pictures show her being felicitated by Rajkot Branch President Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, Branch Members, and inmates of an Old Age Home that is being run by the Branch.



Interacting with self help group making woolen articles during the visit.



With senior citizens of the home



Senior Ba blessing the President



President AIWC with Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, President Rajkot Branch



Street children project of Rajkot Branch



“खेलो होली नेचरली”

AIWC में होली का त्योहार बड़े ही उत्साह के साथ मनाया गया। इसमें AVI के सभी छात्र-छात्राओं ने भाग लिया और बड़े उत्साह के साथ कार्यक्रम को फूलों की खूशबू के साथ आगे बढ़ाया। सभी विद्यार्थियों ने रंगारंग कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किए जिसमें एक छात्रा ने होली पर शास्त्रीय नृत्य प्रस्तुत किया और बाकी विद्यार्थियों ने सामूहिक नृत्य के द्वारा होली को हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया।

हमारी संस्था प्रेसीडेंट, सेक्रेटरी, ट्रेजरर ने भी हर्षोल्लास के साथ कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया और बच्चों, स्टाफ आदि को होली का महत्त्व समझाया। विद्यार्थियों ने भी उनका स्वागत चंदन, इत्र और फूलों से किया कार्यक्रम का अंत खेलों द्वारा किया गया जिसमें सभी ने बड़े उत्साह से



भाग लिया और प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय आने वालों को पुरस्कृत किया गया अंत में MIC AVI सुश्री जयश्री कुमार ने सभी का सहृदय धन्यवाद किया।

सु. श्री जयश्री कुमार
MIC, AVI

जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं महिला सशक्तिकरण

अध्यक्षा डॉ. शांति शर्मा, गांधी नारी कल्याण समिति, धामपुर

दिनांक 12.01.2020 की 'एक दिवसीय जागरूकता कार्यक्रम' का आयोजन किया गया। हमारे वक्ता एवं मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. शंकर लाल शर्मा जी ने कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।

सर्वप्रथम डॉ. रश्मि रावल विभागाध्यक्ष भूगोल विभाग एवं महामंत्री उत्तर प्रदेश भाजपा महिला मोर्चा ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए, उन्होंने मौसम एवं जलवायु का अन्तर स्पष्ट करते हुए बतलाया कि पिछले वर्षों में जलवायु में क्या परिवर्तन हुए हैं, न केवल भारत में वरन सम्पूर्ण विश्व में तापक्रम में वृद्धि हुई है।

हमारे मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. शंकर लाल शर्मा जी ने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से होने वाले दुष्प्रभावों का सर्वाधिक बोझ महिलाओं को उठाना पड़ता है सबसे अधिक प्रभाव तो गर्भ में पल रहे शिशु पर पड़ता है

महिलाओं को परिवार चलाने के लिए अधिक काम, समय और संसाधन खर्च करने पड़ते हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन से फसलें प्रभावित होती हैं। परिवार की आय घटती है बीमारियाँ अधिक होती हैं। अंत में संस्था की अध्यक्षा डॉ. शान्ति शर्मा ने संस्था के सम्बंध में एवं अखिल भारतीय महिला कान्फ्रेंस के कार्यों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी और सभी का धन्यवाद किया।

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान

रेखा राजवाडे अध्यक्ष इंदौर शाखा, एमआईसी स्वच्छता अभियान



महात्मा गाँधीजी के सपने को पूरा करने के लिए, हमारे प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी द्वारा 02 अक्टूबर, 2014 को स्वच्छ भारत अभियान आरंभ किया गया। 275 वर्ग किमी में फैला 30 लाख की जनसंख्या का शहर इंदौर 2015 में कचरा प्रबंधन की बहुत ही खराब स्थिति भी इंदौर नगर निगम ने कचरा प्रबंधन नियमों के अनुसार प्लानिंग कर शहर को धूल मुक्त और लिटर फ्री करने का संकल्प लिया। शहर में घर-घर में कचरा मुक्त संग्रहण, परिवहन एवं निपटान व्यवस्था स्थापित किया, शहर को खुले में शौच मुक्त (ओ डी एफ) भी किया गया स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2017 में इंदौर देशभर के शहरों को पछाड कर पहला नम्बर बना और तब से शहर को स्वच्छता की आदत सी हो गई है।

डोर टू डोर एंड डिस्पोजल वेस्ट कलेक्शन, ट्रांसपोर्ट प्रोसेसिंग-85 वार्डों में 485 डोर टू डोर कचरा वाहनों से गीला सूखा कचरा और अलग अलग कम्पार्टमेंट में घरेलू जैव एवं चिकित्सीय अपशिष्ट लिया जाता है। इंदौर नगर निगम ने एक अत्याधुनिक आई एस ओ सर्टिफाइड वर्क शॉप बनाई है।

ट्रेचिंग ग्राउंड पहुंचने के बाद गीले कचरे से प्रतिदिन 50 से 60 मैट्रिक टन कम्पोस्ट बनाकर खाद को "इंदौर सिटी कम्पोस्ट" ब्रांड के नाम से 2 व 3 रुपये प्रति किलो की दर से किसानो, वन विभाग, सामाजिक वानिकी आईडीए निगम के बगीचों एवं प्राइवेट नर्सरियो को दिया जाता है।

- कचरा प्रबंधन शुल्क एवं स्पॉट फाईन –निगम द्वारा रहवासी क्षेत्रों से 60–150 रुपये प्रति माह व्यावसायिक संस्थानों से 150–300 रुपये प्रति माह कचरा प्रबंधन शुल्क लिया जा रहा है
- डेली क्लीनिंग–नगर निगम के 9000 सफाई कर्मचारी रहवासी क्षेत्र में प्रतिदिन एकबार और व्यावसायिक क्षेत्र में प्रति दिन 3 बार झाडू लगते हैं प्रत्येक कर्मचारी को सेपटी के लिए मास्क, जैकेट, ग्लबज, दो जोड़ी यूनिफॉर्म, रैनकोर्ट और जुते निगम द्वारा दिए गए हैं।
- 311 एप–समाधान के लिये 311 महापौर हेल्पलाइन एप प्रारंभ किया गया है इस पर निगम से जुड़ी समस्याओं का फोटो खीच कर भेज सकते हैं जिसका

निराकरण निगम द्वारा 24 घंटे के अंदर किया जाता है।

- कचरा बेचकर घर बैठे कमाए पैसा—हर घर से उपयोगी सूखा कचरा एनजीओ को 2.5 रूपये प्रति में दिया जा रहा है इससे नगर निगम को कचरा प्रोसेसिंग के व्यय में भी कमी आ रही है। शहर के चार स्थानों पर बर्तन बैंक, चार स्थानों में थैला बैंक एवं शहर के विभिन्न होटलों व रेस्टोरेंट की सहायता से फूड एटीएम लगाये जा रहे हैं शहर के मुख्य बाजारों एवं कॉलोनियो को डिस्पोजेबल फ्री कर जीरो वेस्ट संस्थान कॉलोनी बनाने के लिए मुहिम चलाई जा रही है।
- स्वच्छता सर्वे 2017 इंदौर को देश की सबसे क्लीन सिटी घोषित किया गया था इस लिस्ट में मध्य प्रदेश की राजधानी भोपाल को दूसरे नंबर पर घोषित किया गया था। गौरतलब है की 2015 में इंदौर साफ सफाई के मामले में 25 स्थान पर रहा था 2 अक्टूबर 2014 में जब अभियान शुरू हुआ था तो स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण में इंदौर 149 वे पायेदान पर था सवा दो साल में यह शहर पहले नंबर पर पहुंच गया है।
- नगर निगम सफाई कर्मी और जनता के साथ से इंदौर बना नंबर वन 2014 में निगम चुनाव शहर में सफाई व्यवस्था की जिम्मेदारी एटूझेड कम्पनी के पास थी। झोन कार्यालयों में सख्ती शुरू हुई मात्र

200 वाहनों से व्यवस्था शुरू करने के बाद दो साल में निगम के पास 700 से ज्यादा गाड़ियाँ हो गई थी 400 छोटे वाहन केवल कचरा इक्कठा करने के लिये थे।

- स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण 2018 इंदौर बना स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण 2018 में देश का सबसे स्वच्छ शहर एक बार फिर नम्बर वन घोषित किया गया, शहर को लगातार दूसरे साल यह खिताब दिया गया। सर्वे में भोपाल दूसरे और चंडीगढ़ तीसरे नंबर पर रहा स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण-2018 में झारखंड सर्व श्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने वाला राज्य चुना गया।

चार फार्मूले अपनाये

1. कचरा पेटियां हटाएं
 2. रात में भी होने लगी सफाई
 3. वाहनों की डीजाईन बदली
 4. बच्चे बने एम्बेसेडर
- गौरवान्वित करने वाले तत्व—सयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ अन्तराष्ट्रीय कॉन्फ्रेंस देश में पहली बार इंदौर में हुई। 40 देशों के 70 शहरों के मेयर और प्रतिनिधियों ने तीन दिन तक कचरे के निपटान पर मंथन किया। इसमें इंदौर की स्टडी को प्रमुख स्थान दिया गया।
 - स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण 2019 में इंदौर में लगाई हैट्रिक सर्वे में इंदौर लगातार तीसरी बार अब्बल रहा।

AIWC HEAD OFFICE
New Team Takes Over on 3rd February 2020



ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MANESAR – JANUARY 2020



President, Smt. Sheela Kakde



Chief Guest, Divine Rajyogi BK Brij Mohan, Additional Secretary General of Brahma Kumaris with Smt. Sheela Kakde and Smt. Rakesh Dhawan



Patrons Smt. Veena Kohli and Smt. Bina Jain with Smt. Sheela Kakde, Smt. Rakesh Dhawan, Smt. Manju Kak, Smt. Kalyani Raj, Shri Ranjit Kakde



Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, VP, with Patron Smt. Gomathi Nair



Trustee Smt. Padma Venkatraman with Patron Smt. Bina Jain



Audience at the Conference