

Roshni

April – June 2025



ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Inauguration of AIWC History Wall



Inauguration of A 100 kw Solar Plant – rooftop of Sarojini House



ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference

April-June 2025

Copyright©All India Women's Conference, New Delhi

Editorial Board

Editor: Smt. Sheela Satyanarayan

Advisor: Smt. Chitra Sarkar

Editorial Assistant: Smt. Ranjana Gupta

President: Smt. Kalyani Raj

Secretary-General : Dr Manju Kak

Treasurer: Dr Upasana Singh

Patrons : Smt. Bina Jain

: Smt. Veena Kohli

: Smt. Rakesh Dhawan

: Smt. Sheela Kakde

International Associations & Affiliations

- AIWC has Consultative Status with the

UN ECOSOC

- Observer's Status with UNFCCC

- Affiliation with UNEP

- International Alliance of Women (IAW)

- Pan Pacific & SEA Women's Association

CONGO

- Global Water Partnership

- World Renewable Energy Network

- INFORSE (International Network for

Sustainable Energy)

- Permanent Representative at UN New York:

Smt Sudha Acharya

ROSHNI Editorial and Business Office:

All India Women's Conference

6, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110 001

Phone: 011-43389100, 011-43389101

E-mail: aiwc.roshni@gmail.com

Website: www.aiwc.org.in

The views expressed in the articles published in Roshni are those of the authors only and not of All India Women's Conference

Subscription Rates:

Domestic: Yearly: Rs. 250.00

Quarterly: Rs. 70.00

Printed at: IG Printers Pvt Ltd, 104, DSIDC,

Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi-110020

Regd No. 26969/74

.....

CONTENTS

1. From the Editor's desk ...2
2. Towards a Century of Empowerment: The History Wall ...3
3. Solar Energy for energy conservation and Climate Change mitigation ...6
4. Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) organized by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security ...8
5. Environment, Climate Change - Litigations and Legislations By Smt. Usha Nair, AIWC Thiruvananthapuram ...11
6. My Journey of Empowerment Through AIWC - from Local Roots to Global Platform By Dr K G Vijayalakshmy, Member All India Women's Conference ...13
7. Pre-School Education: A Successful Innovative Approach By Smt. Mohua Bose, Secretary, AIWC Southeast Calcutta ...15
8. AIWC, Trivandrum Branch --- Literary and Cultural Forum By Dr. Jameela Begum Director ...16

Branch Activities

1. Cervical Cancer HPV Vaccination Camps Supported By Clear Water Analytics Pvt Ltd Ujjawal Women's Association By Prof. Yuthika Mishra, President, Ujjawal Women's Association ...18
2. Vikas Mahila Sangam By Smt. Sapna Acharya, President, Vikas Mahila Sangam ...19
3. AIWC Kakinada Branch By Smt. M. Vijayalakshmi, Standing Committee Member ...20
4. Role of Press and Media in maintaining Peace and Harmony Ms. Kriti Naren, Secretary AIWC Greater Noida Branch ...21
5. Women's Safety and Legal Awareness Programme - Human Touch Foundation and AIWC Greater Noida Branch ...22
6. Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha Health Camp: "Fitness" - Cycle Rally ...22
7. "There's always hope beyond what you see" By Preetha Raj -RPMWWA -Chennai ...23
8. Altruism in its true sense -RPMWWA at its Best ...23
9. Nutrition and Health Awareness - RPMWWA ...24
10. Celebrating Heritage- A Walk Through Chennai's Legacy By Shanti Socrates, Secretary Sanju Women's Welfare Association ...25
11. All India Women's Conference, Chirayinkeezhu Branch ...26
12. AIWC Nainital Branch ...26
13. AIWC Kakinada Branch ...27
14. Summer Camp at WAESA Primary School By Supriya Bhalerao, Secretary, AIWC, Hyderabad Branch ...28
15. Voices from the Ground - Success Stories ...29
16. South-West Delhi Women's Association Majnu Ka Tila - Sumitra's Transformation ...29
17. Dhuri Hun Main - Pushpam's Story ...29
18. Gurgaon Gramin Mahila Sangh (GGMS) ...29
19. Vikas Mahila Sangam - Stories of Hope and Resilience ...30
20. AIWC Trusts ...31

Hindi Jagat- Articles in Hindi

1. उज्जवल महिला संघ : प्रियंका ...33
2. नीरा मित्तल ...34
3. विकासपुरी शाखा (डॉ. पूनम, डॉ. चंचल अग्रवाल, विकासपुरी ब्रांच) ...34
4. जागृति महिला सम्मेलन द्वारा 'विश्व स्वास्थ्य दिवस' (डॉ. करुणा शर्मा, सचिव द्वारा) ...35
5. विकासशील भारत में महिलाओं की भूमिका रेशमी निगम, एआईडब्ल्यूसी ...36

From the Editor's desk...

April–June quarter of 2025 saw two major events taking place at AIWC Head Office. The first was the inauguration of the AIWC History Wall. The wall features 29 panels, each showcasing the remarkable achievements of AIWC veterans over the years. As you enter the premises it fills your heart with pride.

The second event was the inauguration of the 100 KW Solar Panels installed on the terrace of Sarojini House. This initiative not only promotes energy conservation but also contributes meaningfully towards climate change mitigation.

This issue highlights the various activities of our Branches. My humble request to all Branches: you are doing such wonderful work and also implementing many programmes from the Head Office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could share these activities with us through short write-ups and photographs, so they can be included in Roshni. Timely submission will also help us publish each issue on schedule.

*With warm regards,
Sheela Satyanarayan
Editor - Roshni*



Activities at Head Office

Towards a Century of Empowerment: The History Wall



Nearly a hundred years ago, the first AIWC Conference was convened in Ferguson College, Poona, with the emphasis on Women's Education. Ms, Margaret Cousins' appeal to existing women's organizations resulted in over 2000 participants gathering at Poona to pass Resolutions on primary education, vocational skills and college

education for women. Under the leadership of Maharani Chimnabai Gaekwad as the first President, the All-India Women's Conference (AIWC) was born in 1927 ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

From advocating for education to campaigning for women's legal rights, AIWC has become one of India's most influential

women's organisations. As it approaches its 98th anniversary, AIWC remains a driving force for social change, demonstrating that meaningful progress begins when people come together.

Across India, the organisation has quietly transformed communities, not through grand projects but through hands-on, meaningful interventions. From healthcare initiatives to vocational training, AIWC's efforts are more than statistics—these are about uplifting lives.

Walk Through History - AIWC's Story in 29 Panels

AIWC has created a unique tribute to honour its journey — a History Wall featuring 29 panels chronicling nearly a century of progress. One panel highlights the 1932 establishment of Lady Irwin College, a pioneering institution in women's education that remains a vital part of Delhi's academic landscape. Another panel commemorates AIWC's relentless efforts in advocating for crucial legal reforms, such as the Hindu Code Bill, which addressed women's property rights. The History Wall is more than a pictorial tribute or a retrospective; it is a powerful reminder that every victory was hard-won and that the fight for gender equality is ongoing. It captures the spirit of AIWC's enduring fight for women's rights.

This History Wall was conceived, curated and executed by an AIWC Team led by Secretary General Dr. Manju Kak, and Smt. Ranjana Gupta, Librarian, who held it all

together. The text was created and edited by Dr Ajanta Dutt, Dr Sherina Joshi and the keen eye of Smt. Anita Misra. Finally the Design Partners were Expression 360 and their Designer Mr. Deependra Soni.

Former Ambassador T.C.A. Raghavan inaugurated the History Wall on May 23, 2025. Warmly welcomed by the President Mrs Kalyani Raj, the General Secretary Dr Manju Kak, the Treasurer, Dr Upasana Singh, and senior members. Amb. Raghavan, lit the ceremonial welcome lamp, beautifully arranged by our senior members with flowers and rangolis. He enjoyed walking through the panels, paying close attention to the pictures and words.

In the Margaret Cousins Memorial Library, where he spoke to all gathered, the President formally welcomed Amb. Raghavan, who recalled the long association of his mother-in-law, Smt. Dipali Sengupta, who used to be the Secretary General of AIWC in 1974. His wife, Smt. Ranjana Raghavan, elaborated on this connection, along with her sister Smt. Mandira, who was also present. They recalled warmly their mother's commitment to the cause of women and to AIWC. The Secretary General introduced Amb. Raghavan, briefly enumerating his career graph as a diplomat and writer.

Amb. Raghavan spoke about his interest in women's causes and the books he has authored, and answered questions from the audience. His erudition and charm kept everyone spellbound. He was especially

impressed with the archives and commented on the importance of preserving archival material. He complimented the MIC Library Prof. Yuthika Mishra for the stellar job in maintaining these invaluable resources.

The special invitee, Smt. Manisha Ahlawat, Member, Uttar Pradesh Women's Commission, spoke about the challenges women face in life and in politics. She shared her journey and how the absence of elected women's representation motivated her to enter politics. Her passion for addressing women's issues and encouraging other women to pursue careers in politics and run for office was truly uplifting!

Several former Office Bearers and senior members shared their memories, recalling the discipline and commitment of past Presidents. Although the audience would have liked to hear more, considering the schedule, the meeting concluded with the Treasurer proposing a Vote of Thanks.

It was a matter of immense pleasure and satisfaction to see members and guests wander among the panels, reading content, admiring the stellar ladies who were our past presidents, and generally imbibing more about the organisation we are proud to be a part of!



Of the 15 women who contributed in making the Indian Constitution 7 were from AIWC



Solar Energy for energy conservation and Climate Change mitigation



In line with AIWC's continued commitment to sustainability and climate action, a **100 KW solar energy plant** was commissioned to meet the electricity requirements of Office and part of the Hostel facilities

The 100 KW Solar Plant on the terrace of Sarojini House was inaugurated on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**, by Ms. Vasanta Thakur, Director, MNRE. Mr. Surendra Bharati, Executive Engineer, NDMC, and Mr. Sengar Devinder Singh, Channel Sales Manager, Tata Power, graced the occasion as the Guests of Honour. The plant can generate around 10,000-12,000 units of electricity per month, depending on the weather conditions

Smt. Kalyani Raj, President said that this initiative not only helps in reducing our operational costs, also aligns with our broader vision of promoting Energy Conservation and contributing to Climate Change Mitigation. The installation of a 100

KW solar power plant marks a significant extension of AIWC's longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. This initiative builds upon AIWC's three-decade legacy of promoting alternative energy solutions and its early role as the nodal agency for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in the 1980s.

For over 25 years, AIWC has utilized solar water heaters to meet the hot water needs of its hostel facility. Additionally, the organization has implemented demonstration models for solar dryers and biogas systems while actively conducting awareness programmes focused on energy conservation.

During the inauguration of the solar plant, MNRE official Mrs. Thakur highlighted several key government schemes supporting both grid-connected and off-grid solar power initiatives. These included:

- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna** – offering subsidies for residential rooftop solar installations,
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)** – aimed at empowering farmers through solar energy, and
- **New Solar Power Scheme for PVTG Habitations/Villages under PM JANMAN** – focusing on solar energy access in marginalized tribal regions.

Mr. Sengar Devinder Singh from Tata Power presented a cost analysis of domestic solar panel usage and shared practical examples of residential solar energy applications. Mr. Bharati from NDMC praised the initiative, expressing strong appreciation for

AIWC's leadership and assured continued institutional support.

The newly installed plant is expected to generate approximately **10,000 to 12,000 units of solar energy per month**, resulting in an estimated reduction of **48–50 kg of carbon emissions monthly**, or around **600 kg annually**. While modest in absolute terms, this reduction plays a meaningful role in the broader fight against climate change — a cause central to AIWC's mission.

As we move forward, AIWC remains steadfast in its efforts to champion renewable energy, promote environmental awareness, and work toward a cleaner, more sustainable future for all.



Invention of the Solar Panel

The solar panel, also known as the **photovoltaic** (PV) panel, was invented as a result of discoveries in the field of photovoltaics—the process of converting sunlight directly into electricity.

- **1839** – French physicist **Alexandre Edmond Becquerel** discovered the photovoltaic effect, noticing that certain materials produced small electric currents when exposed to light.
- **1873–1883** – **Willoughby Smith** discovered the photoconductivity of selenium, and Charles Fritts built the first working selenium solar cell in 1883. This early panel was inefficient, converting less than 1% of sunlight into electricity.
- **1954** – The modern solar panel was born when scientists **Calvin Fuller**, **Gerald Pearson**, and **Daryl Chapin** at **Bell Laboratories (USA)** developed the first practical silicon solar cell, with an efficiency of about 6%. This was the breakthrough that made solar power a realistic energy source.
- **Today** – Solar panels have advanced dramatically, with commercial panels achieving **20–25% efficiency** and cutting-edge technologies (like perovskite cells) pushing beyond that. They are now widely used for homes, industries, and space applications.

Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) organized by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security



On 29th May 2025, a detailed and interactive workshop on the *Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013*, commonly known as the POSH Act, was organized at the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, New Delhi. The session was jointly conducted by Smt. Manju Kak, Secretary General of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), and Advocate Smt. Jyotika Kalra, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India and former Member, National Human Rights Commission.

The workshop aimed to build awareness and compliance regarding the legal framework governing sexual harassment at the workplace, thereby promoting safer work environments for women.

Secretary General, AIWC, Dr Manju Kak introduced the subject by speaking about Women Safety as a vital initiative actively undertaken by AIWC branches to empower women and ensure their safety and well-being. These programmes address critical issues such as Sexual Harassment at the Workplace, Violence Against Women and Children, Section 498A and provide Legal Aid Facilities to support victims in seeking justice. Additionally, awareness sessions on Physical, Emotional, and Sexual Abuse, along with Blackmailing and Bullying, are conducted to educate and assist women and girls in recognizing, resisting, and reporting such harmful acts.

These initiatives aim to build confidence, foster safe environments, and spread

knowledge about rights and available support systems, thereby promoting a culture of respect, dignity, and safety for all. So far, around 235 programmes have been organized by AIWC branches, benefiting 15,993 individuals through these Women Safety Awareness initiatives.

Advocate Smt. Kalra began by explaining that the POSH Act is a progressive and protective legislation designed not only to prevent and prohibit sexual harassment but also to provide a redressal mechanism. She broke down complex legal provisions into simple language and illustrated them with real-life examples. She clarified that any woman, whether employed or not, who experiences sexual harassment at a workplace or even at a work place which she just visited, such as a patient in a hospital, qualifies as an "aggrieved woman" under **Section 2(a)**.

Similarly, she explained that the respondent — defined under Section 2(m) — is the individual against whom the complaint is filed and may or may not be an employee (e.g., another patient in the hospital). The employer, under Section 2(g), refers to the person in charge of the workplace. The definition of workplace (Section 2(o)) is inclusive, covering private and public sector organizations, hospitals, sports institutions, and any place visited during the course of employment, including employer-provided transportation.

Section 2(n) Sexual harassment (SH) is any unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature,

such as physical contact, demands for sexual favors, sexually colored remarks, showing pornography, or any verbal/non-verbal conduct that is sexual in nature. Specific examples included persistent sexual comments, lewd jokes, suggestive gestures, and inappropriate messages or propositions, however it is important that the woman must communicate to the respondent that it is unwelcome.

The session highlighted circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment under Section 3, including implied or explicit threats or promises related to employment, interference with work performance, or creation of a hostile environment.

A key focus of the workshop was on the constitution of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), as required under Section 4 of the Act. The ICC must be headed by a senior woman employee (Presiding Officer). It should also include at least two employees with legal or social work backgrounds and one external member from an NGO to ensure impartiality.

Advocate Kalra also explained Section 9, which allows an aggrieved woman to file a written complaint with the ICC. She stressed the importance of including the following details in the complaint:

- **Chronology:** Timeline of incidents (e.g., inappropriate comments made on April 10, 2025)
- **Location:** Where the incident(s) took place (e.g., office conference room)

10 *All India Women's Conference*

- **Allegations:** Specific misconduct (e.g., suggestive WhatsApp messages like "Meet me alone tonight" sent at 9 PM; inappropriate touch at a company event)
- **Relationship with the Respondent:** e.g., respondent is the team leader who assigns tasks
- **Evidence:** Screenshots, call logs, or messages
- **Witnesses:** Names and details, such as Ms. Riya Sharma (Employee ID: XYZ456), Mr. Arjun Patel (Employee ID: XYZ123)
- **Timeframe:** The complaint must be filed within three months of the incident,

extendable by another three months under reasonable circumstances (e.g., trauma) The session also addressed **Section 10**, which allows for conciliation at the request of the aggrieved woman, provided no monetary compensation is involved. If a settlement is reached, further inquiry is not pursued. In conclusion, the workshop reinforced the critical role of awareness, education, and compliance in implementing the POSH Act effectively. Advocate Kalra's in-depth legal knowledge and relatable approach helped participants understand their responsibilities and empowered them to create respectful, safe, and inclusive workplaces.



Why were Women burnt as Witches

Witchcraft is an ancient practice found not only in India but all over the world. We have evidence that in 17th century Britain, women healers were increasingly associated with witchcraft and the practice of the black arts. Many women at this time were persecuted as witches. In Scotland the punishment was death, but in England public humiliation was more common. In England, unlike in other European countries, violence against witches was spontaneous rather than organized by the church of state. It was believed that if you drew blood by 'witch picking you weakened the witch's power magic and power of evil'. Witch mania provided a way of resolving conflicts within the community by finding victims, and by assuaging religious guilt about poverty by defining some of the poor as evil. Natural disasters were blamed on evil power of witches. Many of the women accused of being witches were old and poor.

Environment, Climate Change - Litigations and Legislations

By Smt. Usha Nair, AIWC Thiruvananthapuram

“Youth and women find success in taking climate cases to court” - an online portal reported a few days back. There has been a spate of climate change related litigation across the world in the past few years. Citizens in several countries are holding governments and large corporates accountable for their green house gas emissions that cause climate change. Climate change impacts are framed as violation of human rights and compensation is sought from governments and corporate institutions responsible for the same.

Between 2005 and 2024, more than 300 cases were filed on behalf of ordinary citizens experiencing the impact of climate change. Significant success came in 2024, when an international court for the first time formally acknowledged climate change as a human rights issue.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in April 2024 in favour of Klima Seniorinnen Switzerland, a group representing 2,500 women aged 64 years and older, who argued the Swiss government's inadequate actions had put them at risk of dying due to heat waves made more intense and frequent by climate change. The court recognized that climate protection is a human right and that the government violated such a right by not taking necessary steps to combat climate change. The court ordered the Swiss

government to hasten and expand its efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Another lawsuit which concluded with a successful outcome in April 2024 was the world's first youth-led climate case seeking climate action within the transportation sector. Native Hawaiian youth filed the case against the Hawai'i Department of Transportation to get the state government to change its transportation policies and to hold it accountable for climate change impacts that have harmed their well-being. The court ruled that by 2045, the transportation department would need to invest in modes of transportation that do not rely on fossil fuels.

There are similar cases pending in courts in several countries such as the US, UK, Ireland, Austria, Australia, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan etc. The large number of cases filed in different countries related to climate change and its impacts, especially by young people, emphasise citizens' constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment in the context of climate change.

In India, a case was filed before the National Green Tribunal in 2017 by Ridhima Pandey of Uttarakhand. She argued that the government's climate change policies were insufficient and violated the rights of children and future generations. The case was dismissed by NGT. However, Ridhima

12 *All India Women's Conference*

filed an appeal in the Supreme Court in 2019. Currently, the case is pending before the Supreme Court. By way of a procedural order dated 21 February 2025, the Court acknowledged the “the inadequacies of extant legal framework” in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. For a holistic assessment of the issue, it directed eight Indian ministries to ensure “convergence of ideas, collaborative governance, and institutional synergy” for the “operationalisation of climate policies”.

It has been pointed out that there is no comprehensive law dealing with climate change and its impact in India. Absence of an umbrella legislation leads to insufficient climate action, unrealistic goals/commitments and indifferent implementation.

It is interesting to see what our Constitution has to say on the subject of environment (the term climate change was coined much later). In 1976, the 42nd Amendment added Article 48-A to the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles are guidelines for the government to create a just and equitable society, although they are not

legally enforceable like Fundamental Rights. Article 48-A states, “The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.” Article 51-A (g) which deals with Fundamental Duties of the citizens states: “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.” Thus, protection and improvement of natural environment is the duty of the State (Article 48-A) and every citizen (Article 51-A (g)).

Climate change litigation and climate change legislations are key areas to look out for in the days to come. As members of AIWC, we may have to take on the role of ‘activists’, keeping in view the gravity of the situation and the urgency for immediate action by all stakeholders. We can continue creating awareness about the issues and also make citizens aware of their duties towards the environment and to future generations. If we fail to do this, future generations will take us to task for failing to take action to protect their lives and future.



Padmashree Award : Smt. Nirmala Devi Bhusra, of Bhusra Mahila Vikas Samiti, Patna Constituent Branch of Bihar State Branch, conferred “Padmashree Award” for her significant contribution in reviving the ‘Sujani Art’ from Hon’ble President of India.

My Journey of Empowerment Through AIWC - from Local Roots to Global Platform

By Dr K G Vijayalekshmy, Member All India Women's Conference

The Powerhouse Called AIWC

As a proud and long-standing member of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), I feel it is not just an organization but a movement—a dynamic force that has transformed countless lives across the country. It would be redundant to explain AIWC's legacy to anyone familiar with its impactful journey. Since its inception, AIWC has been a torchbearer in women's empowerment, community service, education, and human rights advocacy.

With 450 to 500 branches spread across India, AIWC continues to touch the lives of lakhs of women, giving them the space to grow, learn, lead, and serve. What makes this organization unique is its incredible diversity. Each member comes from a different socio-cultural background, carrying with her a unique story of struggle, achievement, and inspiration. And yet, within AIWC's fold, these stories find a common platform—a place where individual journeys are celebrated and collective strength is built.

I am honored to share my own story of empowerment through AIWC—a journey that has taken me across India and beyond, broadening my understanding of cultures, deepening my commitment to social causes,

and opening doors to global platforms of advocacy and learning.

My active involvement in AIWC gave me an extraordinary opportunity to travel across India and witness firsthand the incredible work done at the grassroots. Through national conferences, annual meetings, and various training programs, I interacted with women from every corner of the country—each one showcasing unique traditions, attire, cuisines, and artistic expressions.

What moved me most was the sense of unity in diversity—the infectious energy of women who, regardless of age or ailment, enthusiastically participated in every aspect of AIWC activities. Whether it was engaging in serious business sessions or cultural programs filled with music, dance, and laughter, the spirit of solidarity remained unshaken. The experience was not just enriching—it was empowering. We laughed, debated, learned, and above all, lifted each other.

The AIWC platform also enabled members like me to step onto global stages. One such opportunity was attending the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations. My first participation, facilitated by AIWC in 2010, was a life-changing experience. Over the years, I continued to

14 *All India Women's Conference*

attend CSW for nine consecutive years, each time diving deeper into the global challenges and triumphs surrounding gender equality, indigenous rights, and sustainable development.

These experiences didn't just broaden my vision—they lit a fire in me to do more. Inspired by AIWC's leadership and my own learnings, I went on to organize two parallel events at CSW 68 and CSW 69 in 2024 and 2025, representing "Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India (WHI)", which was founded in 1998. WHI was granted Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, UN in 2014, but the seeds of this initiative were undoubtedly planted during my AIWC journey.

From Learning to Leading – A Continuing Mission

I firmly believe that true empowerment is not only about gaining but also giving—passing the torch so others can shine. Therefore, during my CSW parallel events, I made it a point to include and invite AIWC members as speakers, offering them a chance to present their ideas, projects, and innovations. It was a proud moment to see our members speak on global platforms, just as I once did, thanks to AIWC.

My journey further expanded through my participation in other prestigious global forums such as the UNFCCC's Climate Change Conferences in Dubai and Baku, and meetings of *International Alliance of*

Women (IAW) and International Women's Peace Group (IWPG). These events allowed me to collaborate with senior delegates from across the globe, discuss climate justice, gender equity, and sustainability, and bring these insights back to our communities in India.

Post these global meetings, I initiated climate action campaigns within our branches—promoting green schools, tree plantation drives, and sustainable living workshops. The positive response from women and children alike reminded me that local action is the backbone of global impact.

As I reflect on this journey, I am filled with gratitude. AIWC has not only given me wings to fly, but also the vision to guide others. From my first meeting in a local branch to representing India on global platforms, every step has been marked by learning, collaboration, and purpose. The empowerment I received is not just personal—it is shared, multiplied, and passed on.

In Gratitude to AIWC

To AIWC, I owe a lifetime of opportunities, learning, friendships, and global exposure. My journey is just one among thousands that echo across this great organization. If this is not empowerment, what is?

Let us continue to inspire, involve, and impact—together, for a better and more equitable world.



Pre-School Education: A Successful Innovative Approach

By Smt. Mohua Bose, Secretary, AIWC Southeast Calcutta

AIWC Southeast Calcutta a Constituent Branch under the Calcutta Branch, has been successfully running a pre-primary school for the past eight years in the remote village of Nazra, in Usthi, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. This initiative functions as an outreach program aimed at bringing early education to underserved communities.

With the recent adoption of the National Education Policy in India, one year of preschool education has been made mandatory. The Usthi preschool complies with this requirement and issues course completion certificates that facilitate student admission into local formal schools.

The school follows an innovative syllabus designed by Dr. Sati Chatterjee—renowned author on issues faced by first-generation learners, former President and Patron of AIWC Calcutta Branch, and currently the Advisor to the South East Calcutta Constituent Branch. The syllabus is directed at teachers, treating them as collaborators in the educational process. This is especially critical in remote rural areas like Usthi, where students often require guided support.

The syllabus outlines **whom to teach, what to teach, and how to teach**. Its objective is to empower teachers so that they can, in turn, guide the children step by step through their learning journey.

The focus is primarily on the regional

language, with English taught as a second language. The syllabus also includes foundational arithmetic, basic geography, stories from human civilization, ecological awareness, and hygienic habits.

A hands-on and engaging methodology is followed, incorporating tools such as abacus counting, counter matching, jigsaw puzzles, globes, charts, blocks, measuring scales, and traditional tools like the blackboard and chalk. The goal is to provide students with meaningful education rather than merely accessible schooling.

This center not only benefits young learners but also creates employment for educated women from the local community, who serve as teachers and helpers. The initiative fosters enthusiasm for education in a region with limited opportunities. All students who complete the course are successfully admitted into primary schools.

The teachers—honors graduates with B.Ed degrees—have shown exceptional dedication to their work.

The Calcutta Branch believes this model has the potential to be replicated across other preschool centers in India. It recommends the inclusion of preschool education centers as a recognized project under Central AIWC. While the current syllabus is available in Bengali, English and Hindi versions can be developed for wider dissemination if required



AIWC, Trivandrum Branch --- Literary and Cultural Forum

By Dr. Jameela Begum Director

We are glad to announce that we closed 2024 with the 48th Session of the Literary and Cultural Forum after having sessions on a range of topics including ‘Culture and Literature of the G20 countries’. We started the New Year, with the 49th Session in January 2025, with a very relevant and topical issue that has become a part of our daily lives. Dr AnejSomaraj, Associate Professor and Research Guide, Department of English, Christian College, Chengannur introduced the concept of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on teaching and learning techniques in his talk titled “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Education.” The education system has been revolutionized as a result of the possibilities opened up by using new methodologies that will cater to the young generation of learners. (Link to YouTube video - https://youtube.com/live/fnBXPk_1Y30?feature=share)

On 22 February, Dr. Gita Gopal, the Lead Evaluation Specialist (Retd.) of the World Bank, Washington DC , made a presentation on the role of the judiciary in ensuring justice to women in her talk on “Gender and Justice : Lessons from Kerala.” With real time data of gender equality in India, she said that though Kerala is far ahead of the other States in India, the parity of justice and opportunities to women is still very bad compared to other countries. (Link to

YouTube video - <https://youtube.com/live/Q2yvYG0vKD0?feature=share>)

This was our 50th Session in our continuous program on Literary and Cultural themes. The completion of these 50 series, available on YouTube, is a lasting contribution that has been made by the Trivandrum Branch of AIWC.

After much deliberation we decided to start a new series with focus on cultural and personal narratives. We have titled it, “Narratives of Cultural and Personal Experiences.” The first talk in this series was presented by Prof. Dr. Jameela Begum, Director, Literary and Cultural Forum, AIWC, Trivandrum Branch, titled, “The Art of Story Telling.” In this introductory talk she traced the history of storytelling from oral narratives to the heroic exploits of Greek and Roman warriors in the ancient classics to the memorable characters of Shakespeare and Indian mythology . The art of storytelling, she asserted, not only touches on the social and cultural fabric of the times but also underlines the inherent human emotions across time. (Link to YouTube video - <https://youtube.com/live/h3y1bUcZMqU?feature=share>)

In our 52nd Session on 14 June, we had a young visual artist and writer, Amiya J Hisham, talking about her experiences and training in visual arts in the presentation

titled, “Crafting Creativity.” Her talk threw insights into the new generation of youngsters who think differently about art and painting. The concept of the human library, where groups got together and speak about their readings of books over a cup of coffee was a new concept she introduced. It was a way of bringing together a social exchange of value systems as well. Her talked about her experiences in Paris as an

art student and in Kochi as a curator were very informative and interesting. (Link to YouTube video - <https://youtube.com/live/wnYeIHaTtc8?feature=share>)

We hope to continue with our series in the coming months. It is also heartening to note that our viewership on YouTube almost always touches one hundred within a couple of days.



Mrs. Kalyani Raj, President AIWC was invited to the National consultation organized by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation on the topic Heat, Gender, and Climate Resilience. President presented some of the micro level initiatives undertaken by AIWC branches and the response was very good. Few stakeholders and researchers also evinced interest in collaboration with AIWC. There were good take-away from other presenters which AIWC could also include in their work.



Branch Activities

Cervical Cancer HPV Vaccination Camps Supported By Clear Water Analytics Pvt Ltd

Ujjawal Women's Association

By Prof. Yuthika Mishra, President, Ujjawal Women's Association



Awareness programme on HPV Vaccine and Cervical Cancer was organised by Ujjawal Women's Association under the aegis of AIWC and co-partner Clearwater Analytics, on 30th April 2025 at Swasthya Vihar Club in Swasthya Vihar, East Delhi.

The Program was attended by 77 beneficiaries in the age group of 13 to 84 years, including boys. The program was a huge success due to the enthusiastic participation of UWA members.

The speakers included two Doctors, Dr. Amish Vora a renowned medical oncologist and Dr. Poonam Joon - DMS, SGM Hospital Rohini, who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. and Ms. Avani Vora, who is the CEO of HOPE hospital at Hauz Khas, with the motto, "Never Give Up".

Dr. Vora explained about Cervical cancer, highlighting the fact that in India cervical cancer was the most common cancer until four years ago, He spoke about the vaccine for cervical cancer and how it develops immunity in the body. In USA under the universal Immunization programme, year 2044 has been fixed as the target date for complete eradication of Cervical cancer. Dr. Vora explained about the various vaccines for Cervical Cancer. Cervavac vaccine is an indigenous vaccine which has been developed by Serum Institute of India, Pune. Dr. Vora explained that individuals from 9-24 should take the vaccine and those with less than 21 years of age should take two doses. However, vaccine may be taken upto 45 years, in which case three doses are required to be taken. As per WHO guidelines, at least PAP smear should

be undertaken at least once in a lifetime. He stressed that by making efforts we would be able to eradicate this cancer in due course of time.

Dr. Poonam Joon started with an interactive note and asked the participants about their awareness about cervical cancer. She explained the anatomy of female reproductive system. Cervical cancer is caused by a virus called Human papilloma virus (HPV). Early marriage, multiple sexual partners and multiple pregnancy are some of the causative factors of cervical cancers. Poor hygiene and HIV positive individuals can also cause it. Vaccine has a very important role in cancer prevention.

Dr. Joon stressed that in all probability Cervavac may be included in the National Immunization Programme. She stressed the need for vaccination since cervical cancer can be avoided by this vaccine between the ages of 9 to 14 years. Cervavac is very effective and less costly. There are no side effects except for minor fever. It is not to be used for pregnant women and those with higher sensitivity due to some medical conditions. Tests like PAP smear etc. are to be done regularly and prevention is better than cure. . Since Cervical cancer is preventable immunization is the best option.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by President, Ujjawal Women's Association

Vikas Mahila Sangam

By Smt. Sapna Acharya, President, Vikas Mahila Sangam



A one-day Health and Hygiene Awareness Program focused on Cervical Cancer Awareness and the Importance of the HPV Vaccine was conducted on 9th May 2025 at 16th Block, Trilokpuri. The session was organized for women and adolescent girls in the local community.

Dr. A.K. Mandal (MBBS, MD, PhD in



Diagnostic Oncology) served as the chief resource person for the program.

Dr. Mandal delivered an informative and accessible presentation on cervical cancer, using visual aids to enhance understanding. He explained that cervical cancer is primarily caused by prolonged infection with certain high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus

(HPV)—a common sexually transmitted virus. He also highlighted other contributing risk factors such as early sexual activity, multiple sexual partners, smoking, weakened immunity, and poor genital hygiene.

The session emphasized the crucial role of the HPV vaccine, a safe and effective preventive tool against high-risk HPV strains responsible for most cervical cancer cases. Dr. Mandal addressed common misconceptions regarding vaccine safety and reassured participants that vaccination—ideally administered between the ages of 9 and 14—greatly reduces the risk of cervical and other HPV-related cancers. He stressed that widespread immunization is a vital public health measure for protecting future generations.

The audience responded with enthusiasm and deep interest. For many participants, the term “cervical cancer” was new, and they raised thoughtful questions about its causes and prevention. The active participation of the attendees reflected the urgent need for awareness in this area.

VMS extends heartfelt thanks to the AIWC President and Secretary General for their guidance and support in organizing this impactful initiative. Ms. Baby Chirvi, Secretary of VMS, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for continued educational programs on cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.

AIWC Kakinada Branch

By Smt. M.Vijayalakshmi , Standing Committee Member



An awareness camp on *Cervical Cancer and the Importance of the HPV Vaccine* was conducted at Z.P.P. High School, Vakalapudi, on 2 April 2025, with support from the Head Office, New Delhi. We are pleased to share that we have launched the first-dose HPV vaccination programme in



the same school for girls aged 13–14 years. This initiative was made possible through a generous donation of ₹2,00,000 from Smt. Sarala Krishnan, member of WIA, Chennai, to the Kakinada branch. We are deeply grateful for her contribution. The second dose will be administered in July/August.

Role of Press and Media in maintaining Peace and Harmony

Ms. Kriti Naren, Secretary AIWC Greater Noida Branch



AIWC Greater Noida Branch organized a program on the role of press media in maintaining peace and harmony on 7th of May. The program was held at APJ International School. Eminent Journalist Mr. Vishal Dhar Dube while addressing the students, said that the world is facing many social, economic, cultural and political problems. Most of the nations are divided into groups and parties and the problems of ethnicity, sectarianism and political turmoil are at their peak. Different geographical areas have different types of social and cultural values. They belong to different social groups and are members of different religious and political parties. They lack unity, tolerance and understanding. Media can play an important role in spreading peace and harmony to eradicate feelings of hatred in the society.

Chief Guest, Mr. Prashant Tandon, an eminent journalist said that journalism is the key to harmony in society. In journalism, prejudices towards a particular ideology, political party, person or even a social issue have a harmful effect, as it polarizes society.

When media presents biased views to its audience, hatred and disrespect towards others' viewpoint increases, which ultimately results in division in society. In developing countries, media has a more proactive and highly sensitive role to combat bigotry and prejudices in the Nation. Senior journalist Mr. Rohit Priyadarshi also attended the programme. School principal Mrs. Sarita Pandey stressed on organizing more such programmes.

The students of the school asked many questions related to the topic which were answered by the chief guest.

***Women's Safety and Legal Awareness Programme -
Human Touch Foundation and AIWC Greater Noida Branch***

Human Touch Foundation conducted the Legal Awareness Programme at village Nawada, Centre of HumanTouch Foundation. Supreme Court Advocate Smt. Rajeshwari Mitra was the guest speaker. Ms. Kriti Naren gave a warm welcome to all, and pointed out the need of spreading awareness regarding Legal awareness and contribution of non government organisations in joining hands in social welfare. She said that even one person's contribution in spreading awareness of domestic violence act 2005 is worth mentioning as women safety and legal awareness are important issues. She asked everyone to take a pledge in this direction to contribute to the best of their ability.

Guest Speaker Smt. Rajeshwari Mitra addressed the audience in simple language, while she stressed and explained Domestic Violence Act 2005. The message was to nip



the problem in the bud and pay attention to domestic violence immediately with the help of law. Young women are the custodians of the future that's why it is important to educate them on this issue.

At the end of the program, in an interactive session, Smt. Anjum Alam, Ms. Kriti Naren and Smt. Rajeshwari Mitra jointly interacted with the audience and gave answers to their questions. This was very informative and entertaining session as everyone shared their experiences and views on this topic.

Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha Health Camp: "Fitness" – Cycle Rally

Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, with the Support of AIWC organized the third session of the Health Camp; Fitness Awareness Cycle Rally on 4th May 2025. The rally was flagged off by Shri Viresh Raj Ji (Jail Superintendent, District Jail, Meerut), and the participants covered a distance of 10 km. 140 students from four girl's schools of the city Kanoharlal girls school, RG Inter College, Durgabadi School, and Sanatan Dharm Inter College —



along with 75 members of the Sanstha and other distinguished women from the city actively participated.

"There's always hope beyond what you see"

By Preetha Raj -RPMWWA –Chennai



1st Sunday of June is celebrated as Cancer survivor day and the entire month of June is dedicated to raising awareness about cancer survivorship and the experiences of those who have overcome cancer.

To inspire those currently battling cancer in the rural areas, and in an effort to provide hope for the future, members of RPMWWA visited Primary Health Centre, Olakur, Villupuram District, on 26th June, 2025 and distributed a Nutrient-dense Kit consisting of Sathumavu (18 ingredients), Palm sugar, Apples, Pomegranates, Jamun fruit, Dates



and Raisins, along with a soft bedsheet to 20 Cancer Survivors in that Block.

Dr. Senthilkumar, Block Medical Officer, Primary Health Center, Olakur, gave an awareness talk about the importance of nutritious food intake, and suggested that they engage themselves in activities that promote well-being, such as exercise, mindfulness, and healthy eating, which will help manage their emotions. Reaching out to Cancer Survivors, especially in the remote areas and providing some relief to them.

Altruism in its true sense -RPMWWA at its Best



On 18th April, 2025, RPMWWA donated Hearing Aids to 5 students hailing from



the economically weaker section. Caring for the hearing impaired is yet another

24 *All India Women's Conference*

service which RPMWWA had taken up. The benefits of serving others arise only when motivated by sincere care and the desire to help, in other words ALTRUISM. As soon as the devices were connected to their ears

and they experienced sound for the 1st time in their lives, there was an instant glow on the faces of the children, which was indeed the greatest take away for the members of RPMWWA.

Nutrition and Health Awareness - RPMWWA



One day Awareness Program for Women and Children belonging to the Scheduled Tribe, Irular community. Was organized by Women's Indian Association (Implemented by RPM Women's Welfare Association.) at Kavangarai, Manampathy village, Kanchipuram District.

Smt. Padma Venkatraman, President, addressed the gathering and spoke in detail regarding the importance of Nutrition as well as Education to succeed in life.

Dr. C. Premavathi, Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Salavakkam gave a good lecture, in simple understandable language, on the importance of Nutrition, and the detrimental effects of Malnutrition. She went

on to advice them regarding the problems faced by young girls due to early marriages followed by early pregnancies. Smt. Manjula, from the Dept. of Public Health interacted with the children and showed them a few brain activating exercises, which we all did along with the children and found them very interesting and useful too.

35 packets of Nutrition powder prepared by WIA, along with palm jaggery packets were donated to the residents. Groundnuts, Salted chickpeas and a banana was served along with buttermilk, to all present. Eight bags of used clothes, consisting of new born baby dresses, young girls/boys dresses, Salwars, Sarees, Pants and Shirts were distributed to the village residents.

Celebrating Heritage- A Walk Through Chennai's Legacy

By Shanti Socrates, Secretary Sanju Women's Welfare Association



A nation's heritage is as essential to its identity as a foundation is to a building. To celebrate India's rich heritage on World Heritage Day, Sanju Women's Welfare Association organized a Heritage Walk with 20 of its members in the early hours of a business morning on April 19, 2025, to the Ripon Building, the headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

This three-century-old building stands as a testament to Chennai's historical evolution. One of its notable features is the statue of British officer Conroy Smith. Unlike many other statues of British figures, which depict power and dominance—often with symbols like horses or swords—this statue portrays Smith seated calmly in a chair, holding a book. This thoughtful portrayal offers a glimpse into the intellectual caliber of the men who contributed to the city's development, highlighting how Chennai's history is the result of both strength and wisdom.

The Ripon Building, with its symmetrical design in neo-classical style and pristine white façade, is an architectural marvel. The intricate wooden craftsmanship, especially the optical illusions carved into the wood, left us in awe. We were particularly proud to learn that local artisans from the Madras Fine Arts College played a crucial role in the building's exquisite woodwork.

While we were always taught that the British built the Ripon Building, it was a pleasant surprise to discover that Indian figures such as Mr. Namperumal Chettiar and Mr. Loganathan Mudhalaiyar were closely involved in the building's successful completion. This revelation underscores the important role Indians played in shaping the city, even during British rule.

Historical records also highlight the inclusive nature of the administrative setup, with the London Corporation's establishment of a similar council. Chennai, being the second-

26 *All India Women's Conference*

oldest corporation after London, adopted a similar governance model, fostering a sense of continuity and shared administrative principles.

The building's logo, prominently displayed throughout the structure, reflects the rich cultural influence of the Chera, Chola, and Pandya kingdoms. It symbolizes the city's ancient Naval prowess, as well as a nod to the harmonious symmetry of the Ripon Building itself.

Amidst these reflections, it was impossible not to remember Sarojini Amma, our very own trailblazer, who once graced this council

as the Mayor of Chennai. Her legacy adds yet another layer of pride to the heritage of this remarkable place.

As a structure that has evolved with time, the Ripon Building also exemplifies modernity and sustainability. It now incorporates green building features that promote sustainable living, blending history with progress.

In the end, the Ripon Building stands as a unique blend of history, architecture, and modernity—a testament to the balanced leadership and nurturing spirit that have defined Chennai's growth.

All India Women's Conference, Chirayinkeezhu Branch

The All India Women's Conference, Chirayinkeezhu Branch, conducted a one-day awareness program on "Role of Family in Promoting Peace and Security" on June 7, 2025. The program highlighted the vital role families play in fostering a peaceful society by nurturing core values like love, respect, effective communication, and conflict resolution.



AIWC Nainital Branch

AIWC Nainital organized a One-day Consumer Rights Awareness Program at Bhartiya Shaheed Sainik Vidyalaya in Nainital on April 5, 2015. This initiative aimed to educate students about their rights and empower them to seek redressal for unfair practices. The program featured



three esteemed speakers: Mr. Ramesh Jaiswal, Chairman, District Consumer Forum; Ms. Munni Arya, District Court; and Mr. Digambar Singh Bhakuni, District Consumer Forum. Ms. Manju Kotlia welcomed the gathering, and the speakers introduced the concept of consumer rights, emphasizing their importance in promoting responsible consumption. The program covered key consumer rights, including the right to safety, information, choice, being heard, and seeking redressal. The

speakers encouraged the audience to spread awareness about consumer rights through educational materials, social media, and webinars. Ms. Munni Tewari, President of AIWC, Nainital Branch, thanked all the speakers and audience members for their active participation and interaction, which made the event a great success. The event's success was attributed to the efforts of the AIWC Nainital Branch and the support of the school staff, resulting in a more informed and empowered group of students.

AIWC Kakinada Branch



International Mother's Day was celebrated on 13 May, under the Head Office's health check-up programmes, we conducted an eye screening for nearly 65 women (mothers), Books were distributed to members on

“Adolescent Girls’ Health”, authored by Dr. Aluri Vijayalakshmi, during a programme on Menstrual Hygiene organised by the Red Cross. In addition, jute bags were distributed with the support of ONGC, Kakinada.

Summer Camp at WAESA Primary School

By Supriya Bhalerao, Secretary, AIWC, Hyderabad Branch



The WAESA Primary School, run by the AIWC Hyderabad Branch, organized a 15-day summer camp under the leadership of Secretary Supriya Bhalerao. The camp aimed to equip children with basic life skills beyond the regular school curriculum.

Special sessions were conducted in dance, music, art, sports, yoga, and nutrition by dedicated experts who trained the children with care and offered their services free of cost. A total of 12 children participated in the programme.

Sessions and Resource Persons:

- **Dance (3 days)** – Ms. Charulekha Menon, a Bharatnatyam exponent and trainer (28–30 April)
- **Music (3 days)** – Ms. Uma Maheshwari, a classical Carnatic music singer (1–3 May)
- **Drawing/Painting (3 days)** – Ms. Pratima Raparti, an artist (4–6 May)

- **Yoga (1 day)** – Ms. Asma Osman, yoga expert and WAESA school in-charge (7 May)
- **Sports** – Cricket & Ball Games (2 days) – Ms. Hajira (sports expert) and Ms. Asma Osman (8–9 May)
- **Good Nutrition (1 day)** – Nutritionist Moullika from a reputed hospital (10 May)
- **Right Behaviour & Manners (2 days)** – Ms. Hajira and Ms. Asma Osman (11–12 May)

The camp concluded on 12 May with a certificate distribution ceremony.

Two senior students from the Nishulk Government School, Khairatabad, assisted in monitoring the programme. The children were delighted to have learned a variety of creative and valuable skills, making the summer camp both educational and memorable.



Voices from the Ground – Success Stories

Working among the most backward and impoverished communities, AIWC branches empower women and children to step forward, create their own paths, and uplift others along the way. The following are a few inspiring stories from the field

South-West Delhi Women's Association Majnu Ka Tila - Sumitra's Transformation

Sumitra had resigned herself to a life of oppression and poverty, punished for giving birth to a girl child. A few visits by SWEDWA members gradually shifted her outlook. After learning tailoring, she became a skilled teacher, eventually designing and selling her creations in the local market. When she faced opposition from her family, she courageously sought police help. Many women and girls from the nearby jhuggis followed her example, learning skills and becoming proud owners and managers of tailoring and beauty care centres.

Dhuri Hun Main – Pushpam's Story

As a child, Pushpam would secretly accompany her mother to the training centre, defying her father's wishes. After marriage, she faced severe hardship and abuse for giving birth to a girl. With her baby in tow, she returned to the centre in Delhi. Through sheer dedication and talent, she successfully established her own beauty parlour. Her transformation was so



impactful that she was eventually welcomed back into her husband's home.

Gurgaon Gramin Mahila Sangh (GGMS)

i. Sunita - Kadipur Gurgaon

Sunita migrated from a village in Uttar Pradesh to Gurgaon with her husband and two children. Though her husband found factory work, the family struggled on a meagre income. Discovering a local training centre, Sunita enrolled in tailoring and beauty parlour courses. With a natural talent for design, she was appointed as a teacher even before completing the course. In addition to her salary, she earns around ₹8,000 per month through her stitching and tailoring work. Both her children are now in senior school.

ii. Rekha - Prempuri

Born into a landless labourer's family, Rekha had never been to school. Life was a constant struggle—until GGMS opened a centre near her home. At the centre, Rekha discovered a love for learning and an aptitude for tailoring. Today, she runs her own beauty parlour and training centre, along with taking up embroidery and tailoring assignments. In her own words:

"Learning tailoring gave me the self-confidence to study and learn more."



Vikas Mahila Sangam - Stories of Hope and Resilience

Jagdish's Journey to Self-Reliance



Jagdish, a spirited fifth-grade student from Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh, once spent his days begging near the Hanuman temple. His life took a transformative turn when he joined the education program run by VMS. With pride in his voice, Jagdish shared, "I have learned good manners and can speak in English now."

Babu's Academic Aspirations



Babu, a second-grade student from Mayur Vihar Phase 2, stood out for his academic brilliance. For five years, he attended classes at the VMS free education center, where his passion for English and sharp intellect amazed his teachers. His dream of joining the Indian armed forces fueled his dedication to studies.

Kajal's Dream of Teaching



Kajal, a third-grade student from Jhansi, excelled in environmental and social sciences (ESS). She attended afternoon tutoring classes at VMS and aspired to become a teacher someday.

Rashmi's Struggles and Determination

Rashmi's life was a portrait of resilience amidst adversity. A tenth-grade graduate from Tikamgarh, she faced daily challenges fetching water from two kilometers away while juggling seasonal manual labor with her husband. Despite their hardships, Rashmi found solace in securing quality education for her children through VMS-supported schooling. "Our life is hard," she admitted, "but we are satisfied that our children are doing well."

Pooja's Pursuit of a Better Life

Pooja moved to Delhi with her husband in search of employment and settled in a shanty near Sanjay Jheel alongside 25 other families. Despite her cramped living conditions, she ensured her children attended the local MCD school while benefiting from VMS's afternoon classes.



AIWC TRUSTS

Education Trust

The trust is actively engaged in extending its outreach to remote areas identifying deserving bright girl students who aim for higher professional degrees. Some of our beneficiaries who have made us proud by their achievement are:

1. Deepthi A from Bhadra Mahila Samajam Branch, was awarded BDS degree
2. Anjali G also from Bhadra Mahila Samajam was awarded BPT degree . She is working as a physiotherapist at Daya Physiotherapy Centre
3. Swati P from Calicut branch completed a techcourse and got a job in TCS
4. Punnya from Calicut branch completed B.Ed and is working as Assistant Professor in Mathematics in College of Arts and Science, Kerala

Degrees in Agriculture and Polytechnic courses through recognized institutions are some new courses included for grant of scholarship with the aim that girls should enter into all fields of education.

Health Trust

Health Trust is performing quite well through its Swasth Sudhar Village and Child Health programs, with the objective of creating a disease free society.



Through concerted efforts, our branches are implementing programs targeted towards life style diseases and early detection of Cancer. Branches are encouraged to tie up with hospitals for proper consultation and support.



32 *All India Women's Conference*

Branches which have completed the program in Child Healthare Bardoli (ongoing), Vadodara, Bhopal and Vishakhapatnam SwasthSudhar village program are on going at the following Branches.

Sahaspur Rural Branch, Pathankot, Sthree Shakti Mahila Samajam, South East Delhi Women's Association .

Branches who have completed the program are Nathencode, Thitthamangam Vanitha Samithi.

Old Age Trust

Old Age Trust is doing very well and through its holistic approach it has touched the lives of many elderly women coming from the weaker section of society. Smiles on their faces, their involvement in creative activities, their enthusiasm in celebration of festivals and their participation in cultural activities tell the story as how happy and confident they are feeling. Activities ranging from medical checkup, medicines for basic health problems, nutritious snacks, outings, visits to temples, yoga, exercise and engagement in income generation activities prevalent in their area help them to keep healthy both physically and mentally.



Branches who are conducting the programs are: Pondicherry, Haridwar, Dausa East Rajasthan, Jaipur, Raiganj, and East Santacruz Branch

It is very encouraging that a number of new branches are now requesting for this program. The old ones do not want to stop this program as it has helped the beneficiaries and given them a secure place to spend quality time in a group of like-minded women.



हिंदी जगत सदस्यों द्वारा हिंदी में लेखन

उज्ज्वल महिला संघ : प्रियंका



मेरा नाम प्रियंका है। मैं उज्ज्वल वूमेन संगठन के साथ 12 सालों से जुड़ी हुई हूँ। एक समय था जब मैं अपने घरेलू जिम्मेदारियाँ में घिरी हुई थी और मेरी कोई अपनी पहचान नहीं थी। मेरे मन में हमेशा से कुछ करने की चाहत थी। मेरी इस ख्वाहिश को उज्ज्वल ने पूरा किया।

मुझे किसी ने इस संस्था में चल रहे अलग-अलग कोर्सेज, जैसे ड्रेस डिजाइनिंग, हैंडीक्राफ्ट, कटिंग टेलरिंग और ब्यूटीशियन कोर्स के बारे में बताया।

यहां मैंने सबसे पहले ड्रेस डिजाइनिंग में डिप्लोमा लिया। इसके बाद मैं ब्यूटीशियन और अन्य कोर्सेज भी किये। उज्ज्वल के माध्यम से मुझे कई सेमिनार और वर्कशॉप में जाने का मौका मिला जिससे वूमेंसराइट, वूमेन एंपावरमेंट, लीगल लिटरेसी, POCSO के बारे में विस्तार में जाना। साथ ही साथ हमारे सेंटर में उज्ज्वल के मेंबर्स न्यूट्रिशन, पर्सनललिटी डेवलपमेंट, हेल्थइश्यूज के बारे में, वर्कशॉप के माध्यम से बताया करती थीं। हमारे संस्था में अलग-अलग विशेषज्ञों को बुलाया जाता था जैसे डॉक्टर, वकील, सोशल वर्कर इत्यादि। इस से हमें बहुत एक्स्पोजर मिला और ऐसी बहुत सारी जानकारी मिली जिससे मेरी पर्सनललिटी निखरी और मेरा कॉन्फिडेंस बढ़ा। आज मैं सिलाई के साथ-साथ, अबैकस की टीचर भी हूँ और एक अच्छे संस्थान में नियुक्त हूँ। आज मैं आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम हूँ जिसके वजह से परिवार और समाज में भी मेरा मान बढ़ गया है।

मैं उज्ज्वल से जीवन भर जुड़ी रहूंगी और हर तरह से इस संगठन के प्रति समर्पित रहूंगी।



नीरा मित्तल

मेरा नाम नीरा मित्तल है। मैं कई सालों से उज्ज्वल वुमेन संगठन से जुड़ी हई हूं। मैं आज आप सभी के साथ उज्ज्वल के साथ मेरे संबंध के कुछ अनुभव सांझा करना चाहती हूं।

घर में रहते हुए मैं कोई हुनर सीखकर जीवन में कुछ करना चाहती थी। तभी मुझे उज्ज्वल वुमेन संगठन के टेलरिंग सेंटर के बारे में पता चला। वहां मैंने एडमिशन लिया और सीखना आरंभ किया। सिखाते हुए मैंने आसपास की लड़कियों को देखा और यह एहसास हुआ की लड़कियों को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर होना कितना जरूरी है। वहां से मैंने कटिंग और टेलरिंग का कोर्स किया और घर से ही सिलाई करना शुरू किया। धीरे-धीरे मुझमें आत्मविश्वास बढ़ा और उज्ज्वल के सहयोग से मैंने AIWC से टेक्सटाइल डिजाइनिंग का कोर्स किया। इसके बाद मुझे अहिंसा वूमेन पॉलिटिकल में फैशन डिजाइनर की नौकरी मिल गई। जहां मैंने 5 वर्षों तक टीचर के रूप में काम किया।

इस सब के बीच मैं उज्ज्वल से जुड़ी रही। मेरा आत्मबल और भी बढ़ा। उज्ज्वल की मेबरस ने आगे



कुछ और करने का हौसला दया और UWA में चल रहे उड़ान प्रोजेक्ट में मुझे टीचर नियुक्त किया गया। जहां मैंने 6 महीने डिजाइनिंग टीचर के रूप में काम किया। कुछ दिनों बाद मैंने अपना बुटीक खोला जो आज भी अच्छी तरह से चल रहा है।



विकासपुरी शाखा

(डॉ. पूनम, डॉ. चंचल अग्रवाल, विकासपुरी ब्रांच)



'स्वच्छ दिल्ली : स्वस्थ दिल्ली' अभियान के तहत, सरस्वती विद्यालय, दरियागंज में एक कार्यक्रम का

आयोजन किया गया, जहाँ डॉ. चंचल, डॉ. पूनम, डॉ. महक जैन और उनकी टीम ने स्कूली बच्चों को स्वच्छता की शपथ दिलवाई व नियमित सफाई बनाए रखने का संकल्प दिलाया। छात्रों में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से नुककड नाटक का आयोजित किया जिसमें सूखे व गीले कचरे को सही कूड़ेदान (नीले और हरे रंग के कूड़े दान) का उपयोग करने का बताया। इस सत्र में, बच्चों को स्वच्छता को बढ़ाने की जिम्मेदारी लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया। इस अभियान में स्कूल के प्रधानाचार्य एवं स्टाफ ने पूरा सहयोग दिया।

जागृति महिला सम्मेलन द्वारा 'विश्व स्वास्थ्य दिवस' अर्थात् 7 अप्रैल 2025 पर महर्षि विद्या मंदिर पब्लिक स्कूल, लक्सर रोड, हरिद्वार में स्वास्थ्य जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

(डॉ. करुणा शर्मा, सचिव द्वारा)



'पहला सुख निरोगी काया' को ध्यान में रखते हुए जागृति वुमेंस कांफ्रेंस हरिद्वार सोसाइटी ने 11वें विश्व योग दिवस को उत्साह एवं उल्लास के साथ मनाया तथा बच्चों से लेकर सीनियर सिटीजंस को योग कराया तथा इसका महत्व बताया। प्रातः 6:15 पर मात्र अंचल कन्याविद्यापीठ जगजीतपुर हरिद्वार की छात्राओं के लिए योग शिविर का आयोजन किया गया। सचिव करुणा शर्मा ने शिविर का प्रारंभ करते हुए बताया की एक स्वस्थ शरीर में ही स्वस्थ मस्तिष्क का वास होता है। अतः अपने शरीर एवं मस्तिष्क को स्वस्थ रखने के लिए खानपान के साथ-साथ योग करना भी अतिआवश्यक है। योग का आरम्भ वेद वाणी से हुआ। योग संस्कृति का मूल है। योग जीवन का अनुशासन है। योग भारत की आत्मा है। योगऋषि परंपरा है। योग गुरुरत्नेश गौतम जीने सभी को भिन्न-भिन्न आसन कराए एवं उनसे होने वाले लाभ के बारे में भी बताया। जैसे - ग्रीवाचलन, कटीशक्ति संचालन, घुटना संचालन, ताड़ासन, वृक्षासन,

त्रिकोणासन, दंडासन, वज्रासन, आदि आदि। तत्पश्चात रत्नेश जी द्वारा विभिन्न प्राणायाम भी कराए गए। जैसे - कपालभाँति, भ्रामरी आदि। ये योग शिविर छात्राओं के लिए बहुत लाभदायक रहा। अंत में संरक्षिका मंजुला भगत जी के द्वारा सभी को छाछ और बिस्किट्स के पैकेट्स वितरित किए गए। इस योग शिविर में कुल 35 लोगों ने प्रतिभाग किया।

संस्था द्वारा शाम को 4 बजे कांगड़ी ग्राम में अपने कंप्यूटर सेंटर के बच्चों के लिए योग शिविर का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें कुल 48 बच्चों ने उत्साहपूर्वक प्रतिभाग किया। इन बच्चों को भी विभिन्न आसन एवं प्राणायाम कराए गए। इस शिविर का आयोजन संस्था की यूथ विंग के द्वारा किया गया जिसमें अनीता कुमारी ने पूर्ण सहयोग किया।

संस्था द्वारा सांय 5 बजे डेकेयर सेंटर की माताओं के लिए योग शिविर का आयोजन किया गया। माताओं को ओम का उच्चारण कराया गया तथा सरल से आसन कराए गए। भस्त्रिका, कपालभाँति, भ्रामरी प्राणायाम भी कराए गए। हेल्पर ममता द्वारा इस आयोजन में पूर्ण सहयोग किया गया। इस अवसर पर संरक्षिका मंजुला भगत, सदस्य, डॉ अलका सिंघल, गीतू मगन, ज्योत्सना मेहरोत्रा आदि उपस्थित रहे।

सचिव करुणा शर्मा ने सहयोग के लिए सभी का धन्यवाद किया।



विकासशील भारत में महिलाओं की भूमिका

रेशमी निगम, एआईडब्ल्यूसी

भारत एक विकासशील देश है, जहाँ आधी आबादी महिलाएँ हैं। किसी भी राष्ट्र की प्रगति तभी संभव है जब पुरुषों और महिलाओं दोनों की बराबर भागीदारी हो। भारतीय समाज में लंबे समय तक महिलाओं को घरेलू कार्यों तक सीमित कर दिया गया था, परंतु शिक्षा और जागरूकता के प्रसार से आज महिलाएँ अपनी पहचान स्वयं बना रही हैं।

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में लड़कियाँ बोर्ड परीक्षाओं से लेकर उच्च शिक्षा तक उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कर रही हैं। विज्ञान और तकनीकी के क्षेत्र में भी महिलाएँ अंतरिक्ष तक पहुँच चुकी हैं। राजनीति में इंदिरा गांधी से लेकर आज की महिला नेताओं ने देश का गौरव बढ़ाया है। खेल जगत में पी.वी. सिंधु, मीराबाई चानू और साक्षी मलिक जैसी खिलाड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत का नाम रोशन कर रही हैं।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी महिलाएँ स्वयं सहायता समूहों, लघु उद्योगों और कृषि कार्यों में सक्रिय भूमिका निभा रही हैं। इससे न केवल उनका आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण हुआ है, बल्कि परिवार और समाज की स्थिति भी सुधरी है।

आज महिला सशक्तिकरण की पहल, जैसे बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ और महिला उद्यमिता योजनाएँ, महिलाओं को मुख्यधारा से जोड़ रही हैं। यदि महिलाओं को शिक्षा, सुरक्षा और समान अवसर निरंतर मिलते रहें, तो वे निश्चित रूप से भारत को विकसित देशों की श्रेणी में ले जा सकती हैं।

अतः यह स्पष्ट है कि विकासशील भारत की रीढ़ उसकी महिलाएँ हैं। उनकी सक्रिय भागीदारी और योगदान के बिना सशक्त और समृद्ध भारत का सपना अधूरा है।





Gramin Mahila Vikas Society, AIWC Sahaspur Branch at Dehradun



Serving with Heart & Achieving with Excellence



Times Power Woman Award



Sparsha Constituent Branch Craft making



Non-Formal Education - Human Touch Foundation



Jhandikhandij Adivasi Women's Association (JAWA) Domestic Violence Act



Cutting & Tailoring Sikar Branch, Rajasthan



Successful burn surgery of baby Kushi from Bapnu Ghar



Zonal Meeting Nainital Branch



Zonal Meeting Palakkad Branch



Cutting & Tailoring-Tripura Adibashi Mahila Samity



AIWC Khar Branch - PMJAY Card registration