

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

GENERAL BODY MEETING

President's Remarks
General Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Financial Report
2013-14 to 2015-16

24th January 2017

University Of Madras, Chennai

XV NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES
University of Madras, Chennai

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Ritu Dewan, President, IAWS

Chennai, 24th February, 2017

The current EC began its term in the phase of huge challenges. Amongst the most prominent ones were the dramatic change that took place in the political and social scenario leading to increased restrictions on women's freedoms and rights; the rising attacks on civil society, organizations as well as activists; the attempts to dilute women studies as a serious discipline; the uncertainty over the very continuation of Women Study Centres.

In spite of these constraints, the present EC can claim several achievements. The IAWS has been extended and strengthened via the holding of highly successful regional workshops. Another highlight is the consistent participation and inclusion of youth, both girls and boys. An extremely significant achievement is the placing of the association on a sounder financial footing, thus giving the scope for further extension of activities. This EC has forged new alliances via formal institution of joint panels with two of the most renowned professional bodies in India - The Indian Society of Labour Economics and The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics.

However, it is our endeavour to address various issues including improvement in the quality of research, upgradation and sharpening of the curriculum, the tighter integration of research to women's issues, increasing relevance to the central concerns of women in India, the extension of alliances with other professional bodies from other social sciences, as well as with other academic fields like physical sciences and medicines, etc.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Indrani Mazumdar, General Secretary
Chennai, 24th February, 2017

Dear Members,

On behalf of the IAWS Executive Committee (EC), a warm welcome to members present here in this General Body Meeting (GBM) at the XV National Conference of IAWS in Chennai.

This is the first time we are holding our GBM in Tamil Nadu, although our Association has longstanding and deep roots in the state. The present EC is indeed fortunate that we have two of our elected members from this state, which has facilitated the organization of the XV National Conference of IAWS in Chennai, and brought us together here in this General Body Meeting.

The context since the Guwahati Conference: Continuities and Changes

The period since our last general body meeting in Guwahati have seen several continuities as well as significant changes in the educational, political, and social context in which we are situated. These have affected the women's studies community at different levels.

There have been continuities in the broad policy framework since 1991 vis-à-vis education and the economy that have become further entrenched in the period since our last conference. Continuities remain in the thrust towards both privatization of education as well as increasing concentration of administrative power over the academic processes and democratic forms of community life in public and private institutions. On the economic front, continuing 'reforms' directed at facilitating and promoting private (Indian and foreign) as opposed to public investment as the prime instrument for promotion of growth remains a core article of policy, despite the massive governmental intervention we have seen in demonetisation. On the social policy front, the increasing use of schemes of uncertain duration rather than making structures and institutions more attuned to and more sensitive to mass needs has sustained. And yet significant changes have also been taking place on the same fronts, whose features and consequences are still unfolding.

Important elements flowing from policy and political processes that have direct bearing on women's studies, and particularly its structures of institutionalization, are: a) the abolition of the Planning Commission and 5 year plans under which most of the Women's Studies Centres received financial support; b) a reconstitution of the Standing Committee on Women's Studies,

whose ideas and perspective towards women's studies remains to be clarified; c) a greater tendency to administrative command overriding the institutional structures of academic autonomy in educational institutions in general; d) normalizing of retrogressive ideologies outside and within academic institutions. An atmosphere of uncertainty regarding the continuation of UGC support (on which most WSCs are dependent) lies ahead, even as the reconstituted Standing Committee has sanctioned the establishment of several new centres in this period.

In general, many of the public institutions of higher education have become a locus for a variety of forms of activism by not only students, but also teachers. A noticeable phenomenon has been the presence of an articulate leadership by women/girls on women's issues as well as mixed gender questions affecting students, teachers, and the increasing presence of diverse and hitherto excluded social groups in higher education, who no longer sit quietly on the margins, but are far more assertive than ever before. In the case of women, this reflects at one level, the critical mass of women among students and teachers. At another, it perhaps also reflects a new social credibility to women's leadership in movements (despite continued resistance to 33% reservation in parliament) and the accumulated impact of the work and pressure of many who have been associated with women's movements and women's studies.

In this period, recognition of the differentiated experiences of women based on their caste and community locations has acquired further momentum in feminist discourses.¹ On the other hand, differentiated concerns and frames of thought between women of younger and older age groups have perhaps not been discussed so much. A question that we might consider is whether a generation gap is emerging in our own field, and if so, what is its nature and whether it needs to be examined or ignored. A new sense of agency in young middle class women is of course visible, among whom independent self-organizing groups have emerged, whose agendas, support bases, and social trajectories are still in the making.

Outside the field of education, all-female or predominantly female workforces in services such as anganwadi workers or domestic workers have carved out distinctive leadership spaces for themselves in mixed gender unions/organisations and their demands have reached tripartite bodies for labour such as the Indian Labour Conference. In rural areas, widespread agrarian distress and volatile conditions of work and livelihood continues to dog the lives of rural women, but the increasingly divergent graph between male and female employment in agriculture as well as other sectors yet remains to receive adequate attention and analysis. At the same time, the issue of unpaid labour of women in rural and urban areas and its links with paid work has also come into renewed focus. Refined study and analysis of these and other trends and experiences has also been in the making in this period.

Greater public articulation by Muslim women organizing and intensively arguing for their rights and for greater equality within their community have emerged as another distinctive

¹ It seems to me that class analysis, on the other hand, is perhaps acknowledged more in passing rhetoric on inequality rather than emerging in more rigorous social analysis attuned to gender in changing class correlations.

phenomenon. On the other hand, the earlier interest and articulations regarding dalit feminism have perhaps not gained much further momentum, as the attacks on minorities and Dalits in general have acquired more sinister tones. The inclusive nature of the women's movement and its alliances has to my mind grown amidst a variety of different opinions, perspectives, and forms of organization. Such an inclusive unity is indeed one of the defining characteristics of the women's studies movement of which IAWS has remained the most representative body. So, as we look ahead, we can once again say that our period has thrown up both challenges and possibilities.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION

The IAWS Executive Committee (2014-17)

Let me begin by laying out the process through which our present EC was elected and took office after the last GBM at Guwahati. The previous EC had appointed Sadhna Arya from Delhi University as the Returning Officer for conducting the elections. The Returning Officer and her team declared the results of the election on 30th October. 8 EC members were declared elected from the life member category. They were Ritu Dewan, Indrani Mazumdar, Kiran Moghe, Anagha Tambe, Sakira Sahin, N. Manimekalai, Mini Sukumar, Kalpana Karunakaran. No nomination from the Institutional member category or from the student member category had been received. From December 2014 to September, 2015, the EC functioned with 10 members, i.e., the 8 elected from the life members' category and the President and General Secretary of the previous EC, Iilina Sen and Indu Agnihotri as ex-officio members. The handing over of charge by the previous EC to the newly elected EC took place on 4th December 2014 with the two posts from the institutional category and the student category remaining vacant. In its first meeting on the same day, the newly elected EC members unanimously elected the following office bearers and distributed responsibilities as under:

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Ritu Dewan

Vice President : Kiran Moghe

General Secretary : Indrani Mazumdar

Joint Secretary : Sakira Sahin

Treasurer : N. Manimekalai

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Anagha Tambe : Editor of the Newsletter

Kalpana Karunakaran : IAWS website

Indu Agnihotri : Coordination, Northern Region

Sakira Sahin : Coordination, East and North East

Iliina Sen/Anagha Tambe : Coordination, Western Region

Mini Sukumar : Southern Region

In September 2015, Aishika Chakravarty from the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University was coopted as an institutional member representative. Of the present 11 member EC, three are from the southern region, four from the western, two from the east and northeast, and two from the north (Delhi). Strikingly, more than half (six) of the EC members are teachers in Women's Studies Centres/Departments in universities. Of the eight elected members of the EC, seven were first timers.

Over a period of 24 months, 7 meetings of the EC were held, four in Delhi, one in Pune, one in Ranchi, and the last one in Chennai.

EC MEETINGS

In the meeting when charge was handed over by the outgoing EC, we were apprised of the organizational and financial situation in the Association. Some of the longstanding issues with reference to maintenance of records of the Association were discussed, including of membership and the need for digitisation of files and records of the Association. In relation to the functioning of the financial office, it was reported that regular maintenance of accounting, taxation and audit procedures as well as adaptation to changing rules and regulations had been made possible by the location of the financial office had CWDS on a permanent basis. Careful husbanding of resources by previous ECs had ensured the establishment of a corpus, whose interest was used to support the functioning of the secretariat and the financial office. Yet such interest was still insufficient to meet all expenses.

In its first meeting (4th Dec. 2014, Delhi) after the handing over of charge, the new EC set itself a task of **expansion and focus on regional levels**. Two regional workshops in Pune (western region) and Guwahati (northeast) were accordingly planned to be organized over the next three months.

The second EC (20th Feb. 2015, Pune) meeting which was held alongside the western regional workshop decided that IAWS needs to play a more representational role with regard to **the issues and problems that Women's Studies Centres** were facing. It also emphasized the need for **linking IAWS to other associations** following which possibilities of such association were explored with the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) and the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE). On both these counts progress was made over the following months.

A decision to set up an all India **Working Group on Women's Work and Employment** involving scholars, women's organisations and trade unions, and for which a concept note had been prepared and placed before the EC, could not however move forward because of lack of funds.

The EC also decided to put in a **proposal for an endowment grant from Ford**, for which a proposal was submitted in May later that year, but could not advance further because of restrictions placed on the Ford Foundation in India. It was also decided to **explore possibilities of raising funds for IAWS activities from OAK Foundation**.

The issue of **representing the concerns of Women's Studies Centres** was further taken up in the third meeting of the EC (18-19th Sep 2015, Delhi) where it was decided to invite members of the newly constituted UGC Standing Committee on Women's Studies to an interaction with IAWS EC members. Details of IAWS' collaboration with ISLE and ISAE were also discussed. The need to expand membership as well as streamline/update membership records was emphasized for which a draft brochure was presented. It was decided that EC members would examine the membership and contact details of members from their region and collect more recent addresses and email id from members they interacted with for updating contact details of IAWS members. Suggestions to change the look of the website were discussed and it was decided to upload more material on the website. The audited accounts for 2014-15 were approved.

The fourth EC meeting (14-15th March, 2016, Delhi) drew up a **preliminary outline for the XV National Conference of IAWS**. Various suggestions were made for the theme of the conference and it was decided that Anna University, Chennai would be the venue since the Registrar of the University had assured us of support. A preliminary discussion took place on the theme and sub-themes of the conference, and it was decided to have one **pre-conference on Education** and the movements that had been erupting across various university campuses. The 5th EC meeting (29-30th July, 2016, Delhi) **finalized the venue of Madras University** following receipt of a letter from the VC of Anna University expressing inability to host the IAWS National Conference. The concept note, sub-themes, and outline programme for the Conference were also finalized. It was decided to constitute a Reception Committee with Prof. Swaminathan as chair, and Profs. M. Srinivasan and Dr. Bharathi Harishankar of Madras University as the convenors of the local organizing committee. The **13 sub-themes and their coordinators** were also finalized. The EC approved the plans of the **Development of Women's Studies in Jharkhand project** for which OAK Foundation had sanctioned a substantial grant. A proposal for organizing a **northern regional workshop on documenting women's movements** in Ranchi was accepted and it was decided to hold the next EC meeting at Ranchi. A proposal from the Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund (VMMF) to institute an annual **VMMF-IAWS annual award for young scholars** in women's studies, with selection of awardee to be on the basis of published papers during 1st July 2015 to 30th June, 2016.

The 6th EC meeting (30th Sep-1st Nov, 2016, Ranchi) reviewed progress made on the Jharkhand project and preparations for the XV National Conference, and pre-conference events, and finalized the date for the GBM. It was decided to bring out a **special issue of the Newsletter** at the time of the Conference. It was also decided to institute an **IAWS President's Award** in IAWS National Conferences for the best paper from a fund of Rs 5 lakhs that was being donated by President Ritu Dewan for the same. The audited accounts for 2015-16 were approved.

The 7th EC meeting (30th Dec, 2016) reviewed the preparations for the conference.

ACTIVITIES

Regional Workshops

IAWS along with Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women's Studies Centre, Pune University organized a two- day seminar on '**Different Worlds of Women's Studies in India: Focus on Western and Southern Regions**' on 20th and 21st February 2015. Focusing on the present critical juncture of both disquiet and hope - when Women's Studies is being institutionalized, while the category of gender is being contested, it highlighted some contradictions. – engendering disciplines v/s disciplining gender, theory v/s politics, profession v/s passion, institutionalization v/s ghettoisation that have informed the field of women's studies. It brought out the shifting frames of thinking about women were outlined and associated with this moment of institutionalization of Women's Studies.

The seminar was spread over seven sessions: History of Women's Studies in the Region, Debating Women's Question in the Region, Doing Women's Studies in the Regional Language, Different Voices in Feminist Politics, Travel of Women's Studies Knowledge between Academia and Activism, Teaching Gender on Multiple Sites, Challenges of Institutionalization of Women's Studies.

Recognizing the increasing social diversity/democratization of higher educational institutions where Women's Studies is housed, it underlined the importance of bilingualism in women's studies as well as of women's studies knowledges produced between academia and activism, and the need for greater ideological debate to clarify perspectives.

A two- day regional seminar on '**Gender and Displacement in the Northeast**' was organized on 17 and 18 March, 2015 by Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University in collaboration with IAWS commemorating 25 years of Women's Studies Research Centre (WSRC), Gauhati University.

It focused on the historically diverse contexts of displacement in northeast. displacement with rising ethnic and religious violence in the region, dislocation and trafficking of women and the gendered dimensions of disaster situations; vulnerabilities of internally displaced people face and the need for rehabilitation, specifically of women survivors, the need to de-glorify media representation of violence. Displacement associated with the hegemonic concept of development under globalization was interrogated. Five sessions brought out the diverse contexts of displacement in northeast: Displacement and Gender: Theoretical Exploration, Conflict and Displacement, Tribal Displacement and Gender, Development Induced Displacement Environment and Displacement. Theoretical Exploration, Conflict and Displacement, Tribal Displacement and Gender, Development Induced Displacement Environment and Displacement.

A two day Southern Regional Workshop on 18-19 February was organized on '**Documenting Contributions of Women's Movements, Women's Organizations and Women**' at University of Madras in association with the departments/centre of Women's Studies of University of Madras, Ethiraj College, Stella Maris College, Bharathidasan University and RAWS (Regional Association of Women's Studies). In its opening session, marginalization and exclusion of women's studies departments within universities was also fore-grounded and a demand raised for a national policy on women's studies.

The contribution of the southern region in terms of extending activism into academics was acknowledged. The need to capture local voices from various regions was reiterated to revitalise the Women's movement and ensure its vibrancy.

Well known activists from a range of organisations, primarily from Kerala and Tamil Nadu spoke about their struggles and experiences on a range of issues – from women's participation and organization in class based movements to portrayal of women in the media, disability, women's health, portrayal in media, disability rights, etc. Sexual and gender minorities were also focused on. The setting up of an all women jamaat in Tamil Nadu was discussed. The shrinking space for women's movements was pointed out as a reason for concern.

It was stressed that Women's Studies need to be perceived as an instrument for bridging the gap between institutes of higher education and the community so that there is awareness on the inter-linkages of the various strands of society. It was felt that the women's movements can and should hold space for multiple strands of thinking, multiple forms of practices and resistances. She concluded by It was emphasized that in order to create a critical perspective, attempts should be made to draw conceptual frameworks that take cognizance of such intermeshing.

A two day Northern Regional Workshop on **Documenting Women's Experiences in the Movement: Issues, Experiences and Struggles** was held in Ranchi on the 29th and 30th of September 2016.

The non-homogenous nature of the women's movement was emphasised during the sessions. It was stressed that research should strengthen the women's movements and that there was a need to broaden the parameters of women's studies and to continue building alliances with the most marginalised sections. It was pointed out that the Dalit women's movement believe sex work was a tool for exploitation while other groups might argue that it was a form of labour. Muslim women's rights and the resolution of gender issues within Islam through shariat adalat was brought up by organisations like BMMA.

A special session on Jharkhand highlighted the emergence of a gun culture and capitalist exploitation especially with the mining industry gaining ground in the state post 2000. Issues of women construction workers and women migrant workers were brought to the fore and the need for the state to step in was stressed. Issues of Domestic Violence and the changing nature of such violence was discussed in the context of experiences of UP and Delhi based groups.

It was pointed out that Violence against Women and the Right to Information were the two movements which were running parallel to and feeding into each other in Rajasthan.

The changing nature and role of the state vis a vis the movement was discussed, and an increasing lack of effect of mass mobilisations and demonstrations on the state came up in the context of Bihar. The possibility of collaboration with the state on various issues that were discussed was questioned as women were being turned from a development constituency to a corporate friendly one. As in the southern regional workshop, the need for the women's studies to work more in tandem with the women's movement was pointed out at the same time as the need to address the stresses and strains within the women's movement itself.

Collaboration with other associations

Collaboration with other associations/professional bodies of scholars has been furthered through the institution of a **joint IAWS/ISLE panel** discussion on *organizing women workers* at the annual labour economics conference of ISLE, first in 2015 and again on *domestic workers* in 2016. A similar joint panel on *Social Security and Informalisation of Labour* has been organized in the IAWS conference in Chennai. Such collaborations are important for reinforcing the inter-disciplinary nature of women's studies, for bringing gender issues into the frame of other disciplines and fields in social sciences, and for giving IAWS greater visibility.

Development of Women's Studies in Jharkhand Project

The Jharkhand Project is a new initiative by IAWS that has been made possible by funding from OAK Foundation. The first phase of the project began in July, 2016 for a period of 15 months. The IAWS Jharkhand Project has the following key objectives:

- To generate interest in women's studies among teachers, researchers, students and social activists in Jharkhand and its sub-regions;
- to facilitate interaction between scholars, activists, NGOs and policy makers in Jharkhand with individuals, institutions and organisations engaged in teaching, research or action for women's rights in other parts of India ;
- document experiences of movements around women's issues in the region and generate new and relevant reading and study materials for the development of women's studies in Jharkhand
- bring a focus on women and gender inequalities into ongoing discussions and debates on longstanding and influential socio-economic movements in Jharkhand including in tribal movements and identities
- facilitate the creation of a women's studies network in the state that can inform, enable, and sustain a community committed to and capable of anchoring women's studies at the state level.
- To collate resources and materials on issues that have emerged in the field of women's studies and make them accessible to scholars, students and activists in the state.
- An initial set of dialogues - between the IAWS Executive Committee members and teachers and students of various social science departments in universities and colleges

across Jharkhand has been initiated, and the Ranchi northern regional workshop initiated the process of giving visibility to IAWS in the region.

An MOU has been signed with the Department of Economics at Ranchi University in September, 2016 and received sanction from the University authorities thereafter. Under the MOU, a Project Committee comprising of three members from the Deptt. of Economics and three from IAWS has been constituted to promote the activities of the project, which comprises of a special fellowship for a student of Ranchi University. A room has been provided by the Department for housing the project and a Women's Studies Resource Centre. Due to delays in obtaining official sanction from the university authorities, it could not be formally inaugurated at the time of the Ranchi EC meeting as planned, but in practical terms, it started operating since then. A coordinator for the project has been hired, who functions under the supervision of the Project Committee.

PhDs on and around issues of gender and women at Ranchi University are being listed and a digest is to be prepared as part of an initial review process. An orientation course in women's studies is planned for the first quarter of 2017. Terms and procedures for award of an IAWS PhD fellowship for one research student from any of the social science departments at Ranchi University and in the case of research grants for 5-6 applicants from across Jharkhand for work on and in the state are being worked out. Under the project, two orientation courses in women's studies, a seminar/conference on the Tribal Question and Women, and a workshop on women's work and employment in the 21st century are all planned for 2017. A compendium of papers/documents on the women's movement is also to be prepared for publication under this project.

The IAWS Archives

Housed in the RCWS at SNDT University, Mumbai, the IAWS Archive contains documentation regarding IAWS sponsored activities and events as well as some documentation on organizational aspects, including records of EC meetings, GBMs, National Conferences. The Archives is monitored by an Archives Committee. Three meetings with available members of the Archives Committee were held between February 2014-2016. Uma Chakravarti, Sumi Krishna and Kamala Ganesh who continued on the archive committee as life members, stepped down in a staggered manner over 2014-16. The committee constituted earlier continued till Jan 2016. Kumkum Roy was invited to be a new member. The new members as decided by the EC in 2016 are Samita Sen and Meera Velayudhan. The EC requested Indu Agnihotri to convene meetings.

RCWS has seen several changes and Veena Poonacha, former IAWS General secretary as well as other older staff have retired. As a result, the link between IAWS EC and the Archives has to be reestablished and Ilina Sen and Ritu Dewan in Mumbai are to explore the renewal of contact with the Ava Bai Wadia Archives in RCWS, SNDT, which hosts the IAWS archives. The EC has observed that maintenance of the Archives needed to be continuously monitored. The MoU signed with SNDT for establishing and maintaining the IAWS Archive did not have

a timeline but the committee which was set up to look into the workings of the Archives (Management Committee) and review the MoU had a term for five years which was now over. There is a proposal before the EC that we should try to develop the Archives with a password protected website, and also perhaps, explore collecting a charge for usage; ways of no cost acquisition be explored; there is also a need to take steps for guidelines with regard to acknowledgement; ethical norms for users as is the policy, and undertaking that the material will not be used with commercial intent. The Archives committee has seen a turn -over of members and this may be the case in the future as well. The EC has proposed that copies be made of records are digitized and maintained in the CWDS library as back up.

Publications

IAWS conferences and workshops have been bringing together a whole range of research papers and discussions, and yet these are not reflected in IAWS publications. Sumi Krishna has recently published a book based on IAWS papers, and the present EC is of the view that more such publications should be promoted. In preparing for the XV National Conference, the EC has suggested that the various sub-theme coordinators think about publishing select papers as books. Indu Agnihotri has been requested by the EC to prepare an edited compendium of papers of women's movements, drawn from the southern and northern regional workshops on documenting women's movements. The articles collected for observing 35 years of IAWS have also been published for the conference.

The Newsletter has remained the principal publication of IAWS. Three Newsletters have been published during the tenure of the present EC. The first had been prepared by the Editor of the previous EC, but was printed and circulated under the present EC. Two other Newsletters have been since published, one edited by Anagha Tambe, and the special edition for the National Conference was put together by Anagha and some other members of the EC.

Website

The website is increasingly becoming the principal source of news on IAWS. It has been managed and is updated by Sundaresh, at CWDS, which has also housed the Secretariat since Periodic discussions in the EC on revamping the website have remained incomplete. An attack of malicious code in one of the web pages may have caused problems during the conference. It has been dealt with and the cause of the attack removed and may still take some time to be reflected in web. The Google and yahoo search engines are also blocked the web site and Sundaresh was able to get the problem corrected after installation of site guard on the web server following discussion with the domain hosting agency godaddy.com.

The Secretariat and Financial Office

The secretariat continued to be located in CWDS, and work on updation of contact addresses and membership lists that began during the las EC has been continued by Nandan, whose longstanding association with IAWS has been of service to the running of the office of the

secretariat. The Financial Office being also located in CWDS has functioned in coordination with treasurer of the Association despite the long distance that separates the two. Lalitha, has been a meticulous keeper of accounts and financial records, and with the advice of senior accounts officer at CWDS, the financial office has helped in formulating the several budgets for the several proposals for funding that have been submitted to various agencies by the secretariat in the past two years.

Some continuing issues remain in communication between the secretariat and the members of IAWS, but efforts have been made to streamline and ensure a flow of information.

Financial Situation

Our EC has made special efforts throughout its term to raise funds for the regular functioning of IAWS, apart from the special efforts that are made for the National Conference. We are happy to announce that a letter for endowment grant of 550,000 dollars from Ford Foundation has been received in January 2017. This grant was made possible at the initiative of Vanita Mukherjee at Ford Foundation, Delhi office, who as a longstanding member and supporter of IAWS, made special efforts to not only forward the proposal, but also advised and helped us go through all the procedures. IAWS is immensely grateful for her support and counsel.

The Ford Endowment Fund has to be carefully invested, and procedures put in place so that successive ECs will ensure that the grant contract conditions continue to be met and FCRA regulations are followed meticulously. The nature of the grant and its purpose of providing financial stability for the day to day functioning of the Association is such that for the next five years at least, 70 per cent of the interest on the fund of 500,000 dollars is to be ploughed back into maintaining the real value of the fund, with 30 per cent of the interest available for our functioning. The EC may be authorized by the General Body for devising the procedures for the management of the Ford endowment Fund, which would have to be followed by successive ECs in the coming years.

Programme funding of around 86 lakhs from OAK Foundation for the Jharkhand project has provided IAWS with the opportunity to actually support one PhD scholar and support other research projects, which is new for IAWS. This grant was facilitated by Paromita Chowdhury at OAK Foundation who had approached us for a partnership for activities in Jharkhand, her concern being that understanding of gender issues were not so developed in the state.

While obtaining these two grants have been important task fulfilled by the secretariat and the financial office of IAWS, it must be also borne in mind that the funding environment for a professional body like IAWS is not very conducive. The fund position of many of our longstanding supporters in UN agencies has been weakened and locked into pre-determined programmes allowing for little flexibility.

The raising of funds for the National Conference, whose expenses are increasing alongside increased expectations of our members with respect to facilities, has been quite difficult,

despite our having raised the registration fees. We are still subsidizing accommodation and other facilities at the cost of severe strain on our limited funds, having to draw on funds that have been husbanded by earlier ECs and sustained by continued careful management by the present EC. CSR funding is not easily forthcoming and whatever we have received in the way of corporate funding for our conference has been through the agency of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.

As has become a tradition, EC members have contributed through personal donations, and we appeal to other members to also donate, as a few have already done. As a voluntary body, we are in the last analysis dependent on our members for sustaining the functioning of the Association, including in the financial sphere.

XV National Conference

In preparing for the conference, 13 pairs of **sub-theme coordinators** shouldered a major task of organizing the sub-themes which are along with the plenary sessions, the cornerstone of any IAWS conference. It is through the concept notes and call for papers in sub-themes that hundreds of particularly young students are drawn to IAWS conferences. Several scores of paper abstracts have been sifted and evaluated by our sub-theme coordinators, N. Neetha & Praveena Kodoth for sub-theme 1, Rukmini Sen & Saptarshi Mandal for sub-theme 2, Asha Hans & Swarna Rajagopalan for sub-theme 3, S. Suba & Christy Subathra for sub-theme 4, A. Mangai & Swati Dyahadroy for sub-theme 5, Sejal Dand and Usha Seethalakshmi for sub-theme 6, Meena Gopal & Asha Achyuthan for sub-theme 7, Poonam Natrajana & Meenakshi Balasubramaniam for sub-theme 8, Aasha Ramesh & Celine Suguna for sub-theme 9, Amrita Patel & Nitya Rao for sub-theme 10, Sabiha Hussain & A. Suneetha for sub-theme 11, Meena Radhakrishna and Dyuti, A. for sub-theme 12, and Shadab Bano & Panchali Ray for sub-theme 13.

The papers presented at this conference in the 13 sub-theme sessions of the conference have been finalized by these coordinators for which they have worked over several months. From formulation of their concept notes to reading through abstracts, asking for revisions in some, receiving and answering queries for those who had sent their abstracts, to planning their sessions and organizing curated panels, these 26 sub-theme coordinators worked across long distances and across states collaboration to finalise and inform the writers of papers regarding selection of their papers for presentation at the conference. It is this spirit of voluntarism and commitment to IAWS that is the bedrock on which the Association and its XV conference stands.

IAWS has been fortunate in its collaboration with and support received from teachers, students and indeed the administration and Registrar of the University of Madras. It is only such support that has ensured that our conference, which is being held for the first time in Tamil Nadu, has a truly historic venue in the Chepauk campus of their 160 year old University. Dominated by the graceful Senate House, that has stood there for close to 140 years, and the grand Centenary

Auditorium that has been Chennai's City's largest Hall for some five decades, the campus venue of the conference is flanked on one side by Chennai's famous Marina Beach.

Some 200 volunteers have been mobilized by the **Organizing Committee of the Conference**. Prof. M. Srinivasan of the Criminology Department and Bharathi Harishankar, of the Department of Women's Studies in the University of Madras as the Committee's Convenors have sought and received cooperative involvement in the Committee by Faculty and Students of several other University Departments including History, Anthropology, Economics, and Christian Studies. Student volunteers have been mobilized by the Women's Studies Centres of Ethiraj College, Stella Maris College, Madras Christian College, Chennai, the School of Gender Studies at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Sriperumbudur, and the Department of Women's Studies at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli and Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan as the Chair of the **Reception Committee** has been an invaluable ally for IAWS, helped raise resources for the funding of Conference expenditures, and offered the facilities of MSSRF for anchoring the Reception Committee comprising of both academics and a wide range of activists from various contingents of the Women's Movement in the state of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Yasodha Shanmugasundaram, as Vice-chair of the Reception Committee and an early supporter of Women's Studies in Tamil Nadu has also extended all the resources at her command for the conference. Dr. Kadambari, Faculty Gender Studies Unit, RGNIYD, facilitated a partnership with RGNIYD for the South Asia panel in the conference, with the support of Director Latha Pillai who had earlier even offered to host the conference in Sriperumbudur.

Mr. Thomas Franco of the State Bank of India Officers Association (SBIOA), Secretary & Correspondent of SBIOA Educational Trust was one of the first supporters of the Conference from beyond the usual boundaries of University Academia and Women's Movements that have traditionally been associated with IAWS conferences. SBIOA Trust, is hosting the pre-conference colloquium at the SBOA School and Junior college.

Apart from the material and human resources provided by the University of Madras, and the other institutions and individuals mentioned above, several individuals, institutions, agencies and business houses have also come forward to help fund the expenditures that a conference of this scale inevitably entails. Agencies, institutions and companies that have already given/committed direct and indirect **funding support** for the IAWS conference include Ford Foundation, SBIOA Educational Trust, ILO, TVS Motor Company, Sundaram Finance Limited, UN Women, ICSSR, RGNIYD, The Raza Foundation, Action aid, CBGA, University Women's Association, Chennai, and Dr. Anita Ratnam, Chennai.

The organization of the Conference in Chennai is still an ongoing learning experience for all involved, within IAWS and its partners and collaborators. An inclusive collaborative instinct has been foundational to IAWS, and every conference leads to new partnerships with a range of individuals, institutions, disciplines, and sections of the citizenry. So has been the experience

of organization of the XV Conference, and for that we are indeed grateful for the way our Chennai partners and supporters have taken on the challenge of hosting a conference of more than 1000 participants of which close to 700 are from outside Chennai.

The IAWS **secretariat and financial office team** worked overtime with registration papers, mails, preparing publication materials, updating the website, allotment of accommodation appropriate to needs, certificates, budgets and accounting procedures for the running of the conference.

In sum, it is this multi-layered and broad based collective and voluntarist effort and support and the response from the hundreds who have registered for the conference that has made it possible for an eleven member Executive Committee thinly spread across the length and breadth of the country to attempt to fulfil its responsibilities towards the XV National Conference on Women's Studies, and it is this that makes the experience of organising a national conference truly memorable.

IAWS Membership:

The last two years have seen an additional enrolment of 268 members of IAWS, of which 234 are life members, and 34 are student members. This has brought our total number of members of IAWS to 2,178 as per the records at the current secretariat office. An enormous effort has been made by Nandan to compile the list from old and scattered records of the shifting secretariat and drawing on his personal knowledge of earlier members, and put it on the website. Members are all advised to check the lists and if any discrepancies in details remain, to please inform the secretariat office.

A trend that we are noting is for students to also become life members, rather than take three year membership in the category of student members. This implies that some of our life members are also students. Registration for the Conference at the secretariat office had reached 900 before spot registration, and a quick analysis of such registered participants showed that more than half were below 35, and also that around half were non-members. It will be a task for the future that such non-members are encouraged to become members of IAWS.

While we are unable to give an age profile for all members of the Association, there indeed appears to be a surge of interest among the young in participating in IAWS programmes, and there is a need to integrate them as members and in the leadership of IAWS.

The Way Forward:

Many of the tasks, responsibilities and the problems that need to be overcome in the coming period are self-evident from the various sections and issues already described in this report, and I will not repeat them here, so may I end this report with the hope that the two way communication between IAWS' EC and other members of the Association gets strengthened between conferences.

There is a need to improve co-ordination between the Archives Committee and the EC.

Category of IAWS Member	Total	Enrolled between Dec 2014-Jan 2017	Enrolled between Dec 2014-Jan 2017
<i>LIFE MEMBERS BY STATE</i>	All Members as on 14.1.17	Life members	Students
Andhra Pradesh	152	5	0
Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0
Assam	90	13	20
Bihar	24	4	0
Chandigarh	28	0	0
Chhattisgarh	8	0	0
Delhi	259	36	0
Goa	11	1	0
Gujarat	80	3	0
Haryana	28	3	0
Himachal Pradesh	14	1	0
Jammu & Kashmir	25	7	2
Jharkhand	25	6	0
Karnataka	134	10	0
Kerala	79	17	2
Madhya Pradesh	22	2	0
Maharashtra	396	22	4
Manipur	15	0	0
Meghalaya	9	1	1
Odisha	80	6	0
Pondicherry	9	2	0
Punjab	15	3	0
Rajasthan	67	3	0
Tamil Nadu	149	38	2
Tripura	3	2	0
Uttarakhand	6	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	112	15	0
West Bengal	138	15	3
Nagaland	5	1	0
Mizoram	1	0	0
Telangana	16	16	0
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS</i>	45		
<i>STUDENT MEMBERS</i>	125		
GRAND TOTAL	2178		

TREASURER'S REPORT

N. Manimekalai, Treasurer, IAWS

Chennai, 24th February, 2017

Report of the IAWS Treasurer December 2014-16

It is my pleasure to welcome and greet all the members of the General Body of the Indian Association for Women's Studies. I am all the more delighted that the XV National Conference of IAWS is being held for the first time in Tamil Nadu.

On such a cheerful note, I am really privileged and glad to place the Treasurer's Report on the finances and accounts of the IAWS for the period December 2014-16.

In the first meeting of the present EC held on 3rd and 4th December 2014, I took over as Treasurer from Dr. Nandini Manjrekar, the outgoing Treasurer on 4th Dec 2014'

General Information

The funds of the IAWS are operated jointly by the General Secretary, the President and the Treasurer in a transparent manner as prescribed by the EC. The central financial office of the IAWS for banking, accounting and tax purposes has been established at the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi since 2005 through a resolution of the General Body. Such continuity in the location of the financial office has ensured that all operations related to taxation, accounts, audit, and general funding, remain streamlined and properly maintained. It further ensures stability of financial accounting procedures and records of the Association and maintaining regularity with regard to submission of the requisite papers in compliance with reporting and submission of financial records as per the FCRA and Income Tax regulations.

In recent years, there have been continuous alterations in the format of reporting and submission of financial records as per the FCRA and Income Tax regulations that have introduced new pressures in management of funds and accounts. The IAWS Secretariat has been able to continuously adapt to the new demands and has maintained regularity with regard to submission of the requisite papers. I am happy to inform that IAWS applied for FCRA Renewal in 2014 and got it renewed during 2015.

Management of Grant:

It is true that IAWS has been facing financial challenges and the funds carefully husbanded through successive ECs was still not able to yield sufficient 'interest' to fully cover the day to day running of the Secretariat and Financial Office. The spread of EC members in different corners of the country has also raised the cost of holding EC meetings. This was particularly true for present EC where members come from locations distant from each other.

The present EC made particular emphasis on raising resources and grants for programme activities in such a manner that the EC meetings could be held along with programmes. It has continued to work on building the Corpus fund.

The detailed audited statement for the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 (balance sheet and income/expenditure statements) are appended. All the expenditures were undertaken with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Association'.

During the tenure of the present EC, a proposal to develop Women's Studies in Jharkhand was submitted to Oak Foundation. A total grant of Rs. 87,87,230 was approved by Oak for a 15 month duration project covering July 2016 to September 2017. The Association received the first installment of Rs. 75 lakhs in July 2016. This grant provides for one PhD scholarship and for funding research in Jharkhand. I acknowledge with gratitude the funding support extended by Oak foundation for this programme. The grant is being utilized partly for establishing the Women's Studies Centre in the Department of Economics, University of Ranchi, Jharkhand and for ensuring participation of students and scholars in the XV National Conference in Chennai.

Ford Foundation has supported IAWS with core maintenance grants in the past. In January 2017 Ford has sanctioned an endowment grant of US\$ 550,000 of which US\$ 50,000 was earmarked for the XV National Conference. It was sanctioned with the stipulation and specificities that a 30 percent of the interest accrued from the Ford Grant must be ploughed back in order to maintain financial stability and sustainability. We are deeply grateful to Ford Foundation for such support which would enable the IAWS Secretariat to carry out its future activities and provide a stable financial base for the Association.

IAWS has been maintaining a separate account for IAWS membership subscriptions. The New Membership as of mid January 2017 has touched 257 and the Association has received Rs. 3,76,800/-.

It is indeed my duty to place on record the generous personal contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs by our President Dr. Ritu Dewan towards the IAWS Conference Award. Given the need to strengthen the financial positions and promote need based research to be undertaken by IAWS and appreciate the WS Scholars with Awards, it is necessary that funds are being generated for the same. I appeal and welcome all the Members and well wishers to make similar contributions.

EC has attempted to mobilize funds seeking individual donations. I am grateful to the EC members and other members made individual donations ranging from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000. The Corpus as on 31.12.16 has been 6,76,120 Four Regional Workshops were organized during 2014-16 on the significant theme of documenting women's movements, in different regions with the funding and logistic support of institutions from the respective regions. I thank all the institution for supporting the regional workshops, say Assam Univerity, Pune University, SBOA, Action Aid, Madras University, Ethiraj and Stella Maris Colleges, Bharathidasan University, Ranchi University, etc. IAWS had spent Rs. 5,61,300 on Regional Workshops and Seminars

For the XV National Conference 2017, the Association approached several organizations and donors. Thanks to all the supporters and well wishers for their generosity. It is my duty to gratefully acknowledge for the monetary contributions from Ford Foundation, SBOA, Sundaram Finance, TVS Groups, Mahindra and Mahindra, OAK Foundation, Raza Foundation, ILO, CBGA, ICSSR, UN Women, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, Action Aid, Dr. Anita Ratnam, etc which came to the total of Rs. 88,00,000, On behalf of IAWS, I am grateful to all of them and earnestly acknowledge all their support.

IAWS Newsletter and a special issue for the National Conference were published during this period, edited by Dr. Anagha Tambe, EC Member, with the budget commitment of Rs. 87,442 towards Newsletter printing and postage. A new IAWS brochure was also published

There was a need to revive the IAWS website with additional information. The Website and archive revision incurred an expenditure of Rs. 32000.

Before closing, I wish to place on record, my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all my colleagues in the Executive Committee, especially the President and the General Secretary, the IAWS Secretariat for the constant and continuous efforts to strengthen and improve the financial position of IAWS . With the sense of duty, I thank Ms Lalitha Manohar, for her proficient and dexterous capabilities in handling and maintaining the accounts as per the audit rules, preparing the audit statements, balance sheet etc. I express my sincere thanks to the auditor of IAWS, Shri Suri Malhotra and his Associates for their professional support, guidance and advice to keep the accounts professionally as per the audit rules.

I once again thank the excellent and proactive EC for approval of the expenditure, and support and co-operation throughout. The efforts of the President and General Secretary for considerable efforts to strengthe the financial position of IAWS cannot be exaggerated. I join with GB to sincerely thank them for their commitment and dedication.