INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

IX GENERAL BODY MEETING
1998-2000

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Vina Mazumdar

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
Kalpana Kannabiran

TREASURER'S REPORT
Divya Pandey

10 January 2000
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Presidential Address

Vina Mazumdar

The year 1999 was one of some very serious losses for the women's studies movement in India. Within the last five months we lost Prof. Asok Mitra, Prof. B. Shivaramayya and Prof. M.N. Srinivas. Many of the young participants may wonder why I should begin with this statement. I do so to emphasise their role as symbols of success, in the impact of women's studies on the academic and social conscience of three very senior scholars, of three different backgrounds. Asok Mitra played a major role by chairing the ICSSR's Committee on Women's Studies in the post-Emergency period and pushing a few of us into exercises in policy formulation in which we had no experience. He was also a founder of the Association for Women's Studies and in his own field, population studies, he tried to instil a gender sensitive conscience among his students and colleagues by using the declining sex ratio as a kind of a whip. Shivaramayya went on to become a gentle, but persuasive activist in highlighting the critical importance of gender issues permeating legal studies. Srinivas, while pushing the ICSSR's programme into the study of 'invisible' women i.e. women whose life experiences had remained invisible to social scientists till then, helped to strengthen the perspective and focus that enabled him years later, to acknowledge women's studies as the 'most significant development in Indian social sciences' and also as a 'challenge from below'.

This kind of open support from very senior and leading scholars from three distinct fields in the formative period of women's studies in India was a characteristic feature which provoked occasional envy among colleagues in other countries, and sometimes questioning by feminists within. Did it demonstrate a sign of our dependence on the patriarchal establishments?

Our generation did not think so. There were also some very senior members of the governmental establishment who were equally disturbed by the report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India and became allies of our movement from the beginning. Whatever efforts were stirred up within the government to modify, change or look for alternative policies would never have taken place without the help of these insiders

I used to refer to this generation as the freedom generation i.e. of persons who were already full adults at the time of, or a decade before independence. I believed that some of them had accepted the value of gender equality - at least at the intellectual level, and their acts of omission or commission were not worse than those of us - women in professions - academic, administrative, or political. The Constitutional promise of equality had foundered because no body including women activists, was aware of its greatest obstacle - *the social construction of gender*. Being academics ourselves, we identified the education system - **influenced as it was by social hierarchy and colonial influence - as a major culprit for directing the content of education very far away from the lives of the majority of women - thereby rendering them invisible. If the social construction of gender was to reflect Indian social reality in all its diversity and promote the values propagated by the new Constitution then the education system had to be made aware of its positive potential as well as misdeeds.**

The first National Conference on Women's Studies brought together various sections of the Indian middle class - government functionaries, voluntary organisations, trade unions, political activists, and other sections in civil society 'to initiate the long overdue process of incorporating women's roles and experience in academic studies' by promoting a pressure group of academics and activists, government functionaries and university representatives, women's organisations and trade unions, specialists and generalists from different sections of society.

Running through the massive list of 19 working group reports, desperately seeking to make concrete recommendations, was **'a rather nebulous idea that what was necessary was a *transformation* of structures, of ethos, of quality and behaviour through the unity of scientific studies, mobilsing action, and spreading awareness - among the public, within educational, health and legal systems, among the media and the worlds of creative literature, science and technology. It is this underlying idea that made participants feel that they were taking part in a *movement* and not just a conference – and the decision to form the Association for Women's Studies to maintain the momentum.**

That Conference focussed on a broad range of public **policies 'as they affect women and their roles in society'.** This time we are discussing women's *perspectives* on public policy. So the movement – to a considerable extent – **the creation of that 'happening' nineteen years ago, has *moved in strength and ideology - from the***

politics of recommendations to the politics of assertion and participation. I would call this an exercise in political responsibility in a democracy. But in the current jargon of human rights – this is part of the Right to Development.

In the decade after the Emergency, some of us working in cooperation with like-minded officials within the government produced both critiques and alternatives to existing policies with very little or no result. In the mid-80s however, while the women's movement suffered a severe defeat over the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill, **the Women's Studies movement scored its success in getting Education for Women's Equality incorporated in to the new National Policy on Education.** It was to take us several years to realise that getting a policy, like getting a legislative amendment, was not enough to ensure its implementation. I would however like to mention that the national goal of equality was retained within the NPE only because of this intervention, Government policy otherwise was very busy eroding the concept of equality from the education system at that point. The Chapter was forced to mention minorities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes having made space for women's equality as part of a new thrust.

What I am trying to emphasise through these old stories is that **in the eyes of the political establishment at least, women's studies came to acquire a political identity as well as an ideology which challenged the statusquo and vested interests, in academia and society at large – at the theoretical/philosophical – or the purpose, value or content, as well as at the operational, organisational or structural levels.**

I am not too sure how many new entrants into women's studies understood or accepted this tag at that point of time. I would however claim that *the genesis of the identity and ideology can be traced to the collective articulation of concerns at the first National Conference itself and in the selection of themes in successive National Conferences.*

The political context within which women's studies in India was born and nursed through its infancy and adolescence is however very different today. In the last three successive conferences – we tried to address the realities and implications of gloablisation as a process affecting the lives of every citizen of this country, but women in particular, with increasing inequalities or negative trends at various levels. But the *situation we face today presents a clear threat to the survival of women's studies as an organised movement.*

The dream of education being the greatest catalyst for creating a new nation, a new society, and new rights for the people as a whole - including all those groups which had been excluded from any notion of rights - to equality, justice or dignity in our inherited past - looks like an illusion that cannot even qualify to be recognised as a mirage in the context of today. Within education itself, higher education is in a state of acute crisis -where academic freedom, university autonomy, or the pursuit of knowledge are all being regarded as dispendable - in the search for the highest bidder in a rapidly changing auction market. As far as the school system is concerned, particularly in the area of social studies - the whole series of recent reports in the press are enough indications of what is being planned. Women's Studies has been involved in reconstructing the past to remove the barriers of invisibility and suppression of accounts of women's agency, but the process of deconstruction of history that from reports has already reached a fairly advanced stage makes it imperative for women's studies to reexamine and redefine its role and strategies in future.

Any struggle or movement has to respond to major changes in the broader environment if it wants to survive. It calls for vigilance, broad-based participation and organisational strength. **Above all it needs allies in all groups who stand to lose their dreams for a future in a world and a nation threatened by too many destructive forces and sharpening inequalities.** It is not for me to advise you of how you should deal with these challenges. All I can say is that my life, like that of some others here was enriched and extended by the explosion of creative energy at various levels, but particularly at the grassroots unleashed by the twin movements by women in this country. In that creativity, energy and confidence I shall stake my beliefs for the future.

Report of the General Secretary

Kalpana Kannabiran

Friends,

The year 1998-1999 has been a very eventful year for the Indian Association for Women's Studies. This year has been spent planning and holding several events of national importance. It is my pleasure to present a brief report of the activities of the Association for the period June 1998 to December 1999.

a) Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meetings are the main forums for discussion and planning of events organised by IAWS or in collaboration with other institutions. Three such meetings were held in the past year: the first in June, at the conclusion of the VIII National Conference in Pune, the second in September in Hyderabad where the new Secretariat is located and the third in January in Hyderabad. This report will present a summary of the discussions at the EC meetings, which will offer a substantive profile of the Association's current activities and future plans.

Kamla Bhasin resigned from the Executive Committee in late 1998 for personal reasons. While we were very reluctant to let her go, we accepted her resignation on her assurance that she would be there any time we needed her.

Significant among the concerns voiced by the members of the Executive Committee during its meetings in the past year:

- The need for greater emphasis on improving the quality of discipline-wise and interdisciplinary research and theorization of women's issues on a professional basis.

- The need to link up more effectively with the University Grants Commission and work closely with University Academic Staff Colleges.

- Several members on the Executive Committee have been experimenting over many years with new and more innovative ways of teaching Women's Studies. The strengths and constraints of programmes were discussed in fair detail. In general it was felt that the IAWS should strengthen Women's Studies Centres in the country and draw on the experience and expertise of institutions – university based and non-governmental. There is a need to facilitate an effective liaison between university centres and NGOs engaged in Women's Studies making optimum use of the clustering approach of universities. Given the high costs involved in conducting residential programmes, as has been the experience of non governmental organisations, a more effective collaboration must be established between universities and NGOs to ensure increasing standards of excellence that were cost effective at the same time. It was felt that the involvement of the UGC is vital in this aspect.

- The need to draw up an annual programme for training and curriculum development. It would be useful to design foundation courses in women's studies. In this exercise, a historical perspective, members felt would be essential to help students widen their perspective, the collection and preparation of material in regional languages being a first step. The Executive Committee is committed to producing such material. I take this opportunity to invite suggestions from members of the General Body.

- The need for comparative research and comparison of research findings, especially with regard to trends in specific areas. Within the broad framework of regional histories, specific thematic divisions could take into account specific issues as well as regional priorities.

- The need to document the history of the IAWS, especially because the Association is about to complete 20 years. The aim of this exercise would be to preserve and document institutional memories and record oral histories of people who had been active in the Association at various points in its history. In writing the history, different voices that have emerged in the course of the last twenty years, particularly the debates and dialogues between activists and academics must find space. A history of this kind would in fact be a history of the women's studies movement in India.

- The need to look at various aspects of women's health historically -especially with regard to feminist critique of health care systems, health services, family welfare, population control policies and contraceptive policies.

As is evident from the deliberations of the Executive Committee, the IAWS has played and continues to play a critical role in Women's Studies research, teaching, curriculum design and advocacy in the country.

b) National Consultation on Sexual Harassment on University Campuses

The Indian Association for Women's Studies and the Human Rights Programme, Central University of Hyderabad co-organised this consultation in January 1999. The consultation drew participants from all over the country: the North East, North, East, West and South. This meeting aimed at initiating a dialogue on the issue of sexual harassment, and devising some strategies on how the conclusions of this consultation can be brought to bear on institutions across the country. Some of the concerns debated in the consultation were: the exact implications of the Supreme Court judgement; the role of the University Grants Commission in the implementation of the judgement; the role of Teachers' and Students' Unions in providing support and solidarity to victims of sexual harassment; the constitution and composition of Enquiry Committees. In general it was felt that a basic structure must be put in place – one that takes into account all the elements that form part of the Supreme Court judgment.

c) Regional Histories Seminars

The Association planned a series of five seminars around the theme "Women and Regional Histories". The seminars were planned in each of the five regions in the country: North-east, North, East, West and South.

In looking at *Women and Regional Histories*, the seminars attempted to delineate specific thematic divisions and regional priorities, as well as conceptual clarity on notions of citizenship and identity - especially the ways in which they intersect with gender and region. The framework of workshops in each region was determined by the specificity of that region and its priorities.

Of the five seminars planned, four have been held:

- The Eastern Regional Seminar in Calcutta was titled *"In Search of Pasts? History, Women's Movements and Women's Studies"*, and was held on 25 and 26 February 1999 in Calcutta at the K. P. Basu Memorial Hall, Jadavpur University. It was organised jointly by IAWS, the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University and the Women's Studies Research Centre, Calcutta University. In the two days, there were about 150 participants.

- The North-Eastern Regional Seminar was held in collaboration with the All India Coordinating Forum of the Adivasi/Indigenous Peoples on 24-25 July 1999. There were thirty-two groups from the North-East represented at the meeting. The significant achievement of the workshop was that it gave birth to a new chapter of IP women in the region. The objectives of this chapter are to strengthen links with other groups in the region and beyond, document histories, analyse the impact of processes of assimilation in the North-East, and engage in a constructive critique of culture.

- The Western Regional Seminar titled *Women in History: A Regional Perspective from Western India* was held in collaboration with the Research Centre for Women's Studies, S N D T Women's University on 19-21 August 1999 in Mumbai. There were about 46 delegates. The seminar focussed on issues: Economy and Polity, Women's Education in Western India, Expression of Identity, Cultural Representation, Control over Sexuality, and Movements for Change.

- The Southern Regional Seminar was held in collaboration with Department of History, University of Hyderabad, on 30, 31 August and 1 September '99. This seminar aimed at reviewing "women's space" in southern histories in domains like politics, literature, literary criticism, gender orientation in different relations, hierarchy, patriarchy and the formation of language. The seminar also identified the existing gaps and provided reorientation to existing research.

The Regional Histories Seminars were possible only because we had a group of exceptional and committed women in each of the collaborating institutions who took responsibility for putting the event together. Unlike other events of this kind, I found they lifted the entire burden of post seminar work off my shoulders, by taking complete responsibility for putting together a report that could directly go into print. All I needed to do in the end was to set

deadlines and format the consolidated document for publication. The seminars at Hyderabad and Guwahati were the ones I was personally involved in planning. The Guwahati seminar was a result of detailed discussions between the Organising Committee and me over a six-month period, and I regret that health and personal circumstances did not permit me to travel at that time. None of the other members on the Executive Committee had the time to attend the North-east workshop either. But the event was a success and has helped us strengthen our links with the region. After the Regional Histories Seminar, we were very keen on involving groups from the North-east in the organising of this conference. We had several conversations with different groups in the region about the possibility of their putting together a plenary on the North-east, but unfortunately schedules did not match. We do hope the next EC will be able to plan more broad-based events with these groups in the near future.

d) University Grants Commission Standing Committee on Women's Studies

The University Grants Commission and its Standing Committee on Women's Studies have decided to bring out a volume on "Women's Studies in India". The purpose of the volume is to document the evolution and experiences of Women's Studies Centres in India, both within and outside the University system. It is hoped that this will provide a kind of history of Women's Studies movement during the last quarter of a century in the context of social, economic and educational development of the country. The volume will also aim at providing a perspective for the development of Women's Studies in the 21st Century, focussing on the Indian scenario within the global context. The involvement of the IAWS in the formation of this committee and in the entire planning process is significant. The IAWS also provided travel subsidies to people invited to attend the last meeting of the Standing Committee in April last year. This is for us yet another demonstration of the close relationship that the Association has had with the UGC over the past twenty years, i.e., since its inception.

I would like, at this point to take a brief detour into the history of the IAWS, demonstrating in the process the inseparability between the IAWS, the UGC and the growth of Women's Studies in India two decades ago. This is particularly important at the present juncture, when the UGC has announced the withdrawal of support to University based Women's Studies Centres across the country. Madhuri Shah's role in institutionalising women's studies in India, and the manner in which she used the machinery of the University Grants Commission to provide the momentum, is noteworthy.

The recommendations that came out of the First National Conference on Women's Studies in 1981 were picked up by the UGC [as Madhuri Shah reported in her Conference Address in Trivandrum in 1984]. The UGC addressed a letter to the Universities in 1983, suggesting that universities incorporate women's issues and concerns within different disciplines through restructuring of courses, curriculum development, research activities and extension type of work. The UGC was able to actively push the agenda of women's studies forward, backed by the IAWS, in those early years. That was also the critical period when the legitimacy of women's studies as an independent discipline had to be established. The founders of the Association repeatedly stressed the vital role of statutory bodies like the UGC, ICSSR, ICHR, ICMR, DST etc. in the active promotion of Women's Studies.

Further, the founding members of the IAWS had a keen understanding of the critical intellectual, political and activist role that Women's Studies should play. To quote Madhuri Shah again,

> "Women's Studies has emerged as a powerful challenge (a) to the existing marginal position of women in society and (b) to the intellectual perceptions of the most dominant section of our people, which includes both men and women, that contribute to perpetuate the marginal role of women".

When today, we invest time, energy and resources in the work of the UGC Standing Committee, we are in a sense working on a long term commitment of the Association that has spanned two decades.

e) IX National Conference on Women's Studies

The Executive Committee of IAWS decided that the focus of this conference would be **"Women's Perspectives on Public Policy: Evolving an Agenda for Action into the Next Millenium"**. While the theme of the conference has been detailed in the brochure, I would like to reflect a bit on the conference process, which this time paved a new path, a precedent for future organising by the Association.

In the first eight national conferences, the themes as well as the coordinators were identified by the Executive Committee, while the sub themes were developed by the coordinators in close consultation with, or on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. While this practice undoubtedly has its merits, members have time and again

felt that the process must be more inclusive and transparent. As a more democratic alternative, we decided to put out an announcement of the conference detailing the focus, inviting proposals for themes and sub-themes, from anyone interested, not only members of the Association. In response to our announcement, which was published in *the Economic and Political Weekly* and the *Indian Review of Books*, and posted on the notice boards of several institutions across the country, we received several proposals, from which the ones that feature at this conference were selected. In the selection process too, we encouraged institutions/individuals/groups with similar proposals to jointly coordinate sessions, as far as possible. While we concede that there are critical areas that do not feature in the programme because we did not receive proposals, we are entirely satisfied with the outcome of our experiment, and do hope it will be a precedent for future conferences.

This time the IAWS has been able to provide full financial support to Comet Media Foundation, Mumbai, for *Stri Vividha*, continuing, facilitating and strengthening the involvement of artisans and small producers, especially women, with the IAWS – a process that began at Jaipur in 1995. This is of specific relevance here, since this conference focuses on public policy.

A Media Team consisting of women journalists from the English Press, Hindi, Oriya, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Assamese, Bengali and Marathi has been constituted to cover this conference, and have been provided logistic support to facilitate reporting. C. Mrinalini, a member of the local Organising Committee was requested to be the Media Coordinator.

The work done by Asmita Resource Centre for Women for this conference is in front of us. At a time when NGOs are under attack from all sides, Asmita, the group responsible for local coordination, has yet again demonstrated the indispensability of collaboration between NGOs, the university system, the bureaucracy and movements. It is an established practice of the IAWS to collaborate with a local university in the organising of the conference, with the university taking major responsibility for local coordination and hospitality. The universities in Hyderabad, we found, were willing to support us in small specific ways, but did not possess the infrastructure to host an event on this scale. Asmita was then invited by the IAWS to coordinate the work of the conference. In recognition of the practice of the Association of including a university in an organisational capacity, Asmita constituted a Steering Committee consisting of heads of various institutions/universities in

the city, senior bureaucrats with a proven commitment to women's studies, and academics and creative writers of repute. The Organising Committee has drawn in senior faculty members from each of these institutions. All members of these committees took their role seriously, with commitment and most of them took the time and trouble to attend the meetings and communicate their suggestions to us.

Most of the institutions represented on our committees have become institutional/corporate members of the IAWS: The Maulana Azad National Urdu University and Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University have become Corporate Members while the NALSAR University of Law, NISIET, and Central University of Hyderabad have become institutional members. The Vice Chancellor of Central University readily agreed to host the Pre Conference Information Workshop held by the CWDS. We have drawn heavily on the support of this group for volunteers, transport, and other logistic support. The contribution of Mr. Prabhat, Principal Director, NISIET, and his team, is before us. Besides this, the Steering Committee hosted the inaugural lunch for the delegates.

All matters related to the conference – logistic as well as thematic – were discussed in detail at the meetings of the Steering and Organising Committees. The responsibility of executing plans fell entirely on the Asmita team, and they have done a remarkable job. In putting this conference together in the way that it has, Asmita, I think, has provided us with yet another example.

The Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi, received and edited the abstracts for publication. This was an enormous responsibility and we are grateful to the CWDS, particularly to Sonia Bathla and Mary John.

Personal friends in Mudra Communications, Hyderabad, have provided tremendous support to the IAWS both for the Pune conference and in far greater magnitude for this one. The IAWS brochure, the Pune conference brochure, the book of Abstracts at Pune, the brochure for this conference, the book of abstracts, the consolidated report of the regional histories seminars, the conference banner and badges have all been designed by and printed through Mudra as a special case, at no extra cost. This is only the material, quantifiable support. I owe my friends in Mudra a debt that far exceeds this, that is impossible for me to quantify or repay. I must make special mention of Bal Deshpande and Raj Mohan Tella. I remember a friend, Jasodhara Bagchi I think, telling me after she saw

the Pune Conference brochure that if we were in fact thinking of a feminist paradise sometime in the distant future [the dream of this millennium], people like this were sure to find an honourable place there, their corporate careers in a globalised economy notwithstanding.

We have been extremely fortunate in finding financial support for the conference. Every agency we approached was extremely positive and interested in the conference. Those that could not offer support actually took the trouble of forwarding our requests to other agencies and recommending support. We are particularly grateful to Hedwig Schlags of EZE for directing our application to ICCO. Sarojini Ganju Thakur untiringly pursued our request to the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, for a publication grant and made sure the money was released to us well in time. Shobha Raghuram from HIVOS, a long time associate and friend responded immediately and confirmed support for both the Regional Histories Seminar Series as well as this conference. UNIFEM has assured us partial support for Stri Vividha. The Ford Foundation has provided a long term grant to the IAWS, and also assured us that if we fell short of funding for whatever reason, they would consider a request for an additional grant to cover conference expenses. I take this opportunity to thank each of these agencies and their representatives on behalf of the IAWS.

I would like us to put some serious thought to the logistics of organising events like this in future. With the constituency of the IAWS growing in geometric proportions, conference related work gets more and more elaborate and complicated each time. I have been fortunate in that I have had solid back up from Asmita, a group that has a firm base in the twin cities and very broad-based support, as is evident from the composition of the Steering and Organising Committees. This is really an exceptional situation. In the absence of this kind of back up, we need to think of mechanisms by which we can make conference coordination more manageable for anyone in this position. The Executive Committee over the last two terms that I have been on it, has been concerned with the need to decentralise the organising of the conference, delegating and farming out responsibilities as far as possible. At the end of the Pune conference, the Executive Committee decided to appoint coordinators for logistics, theme, media etc. These persons need not all be members of the EC. Somehow, we were not able to put this plan through for this conference, but I think it is necessary to think this through. I say this specifically from the standpoint of my own experience over the past four years.

f) Election 2000

Since this conference is being held six months ahead of schedule, the Executive Committee decided to begin the Election process at the conference. Dr. Rohini Gawankar has been appointed "Returning Officer" by the Executive Committee for Election 2000. Those of you who are valid voters will have got your nomination forms on registration. When the conference was timed to coincide with the completion of the election process, results were declared in the general body meeting held biennially during the conference. This time, however, the results of the election will be announced in the Newsletter, in the first week of June.

g) Membership Directory

For the first time, this year, we decided to bring out an IAWS Membership Directory. This is the culmination of a long and painstaking effort begun by Chhaya Datar to clean up our membership lists, update addresses and cross check validity of memberships against the original membership forms in each category. We request each of you to kindly check your address and other details, including email addresses and drop off new addresses in the boxes provided at the conference venue. We have also printed and distributed copies of the IAWS Constitution.

Conclusion

In my work over the past year and a half, I have received tremendous support from friends in various institutions across the country. Whether it had to do with organising the Regional Histories Seminars or setting up the Media Team for this conference, or the Sexual Harassment Consultation, or any other matter related to the IAWS, I received extremely positive responses from the most unexpected quarters, most not directly associated with the IAWS. In the process, the membership of the IAWS has also grown significantly. There have been occasions when members of the Association have been unhappy with my seeking collaboration with mainstream departments in universities, which had women's studies centres. By way of explanation I would like to say that I concentrated on drawing in departments that have a tentative and hesitant association with women's studies, in an attempt to strengthen and consolidate that association. And I know that I have not been entirely unsuccessful.

Being an office bearer of the IAWS for two consecutive terms has made it possible to work closely yet again after a fifteen-year break with my old friends, Divya Pandey and Maithreyi Krishna Raj. Divya especially has been a tremendous moral support and we worked very well together. There are several people whose work I

was familiar with, whose names I knew, but with whom I might not have had the opportunity to work with, had it not been for the IAWS: Nirmala Banerjee, Rohini Gawankar, Kamla Bhasin, Chhaya Datar and Usha Thakker. I have known Rama Melkote since my childhood, and have enjoyed working with her after all these years. Kavita Panjabi, Bhavana Mehta, Jayshree Vencatesan, Bina Srinivasan and Geetanjali Gangoli have become good friends over the past three years. Last, and most important, working with Neera Desai and Vina Mazumdar, has been an experience I treasure most. I am grateful to the IAWS for giving me this rare opportunity.

For me this is a precious moment. When I entered feminist activism twenty years ago in this city as part of one of the first feminist groups in the country, Stree Shakti Sanghatana, I did not imagine that I would some day be responsible for organising an IAWS conference. In 1984, at Trivandrum, the beginning of my active association with the IAWS, I was star gazing. Today, I am honoured to be here. I would like to take this opportunity to pay my tribute to my dear friends and mentors, the late Prof. A.R. Desai and Prof. Neera Desai, the two people with whom I shared my first ever public platform in this city seventeen years ago and whose work continues to shape my ideas and work today. My mother has been mother, friend, colleague, collaborator, and companion. Given my physical condition in this past year, and the fact that I took up a full time teaching assignment in the middle of it all, none of what you see here would have been possible if she had not freed me from emotional and physical responsibility in the home. When the conference was approaching, I dreamt one night that she did not show up to do her welcome address. I stood in for her, but was a poor substitute. When I went home, she simply turned around and said, "Oh! I wanted to spend those extra five minutes with my baby". On waking, I wondered how I would work if she stopped wanting to squeeze in those extra five minutes with my daughters.

Thank you very much.

Treasurer's Report

Divya Pandey

I have pleasure in presenting the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year 1998-99 as on 31st March 1999. The IX National Conference has been organized six months prior to the completion of the term of the present EC due to climatic conditions of Hyderabad. Due to this I could not present consolidated financial report of two years. However, the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year 1999-2000 as on 31st March 2000 will be published in the subsequent newsletter of the !AWS. The present EC took over charge on 5 June 1998 and found no problems in establishing its secretariat at Asmita office at Secunderabad and convened EC meetings to plan the activities of IAWS. Financially this was possible due to the Ford Grant.

Ford Foundation Grant

The Ford Grant of $ 76,000 was made available in response to the proposal submitted by the previous General Secretary, Dr. Chhaya Datar. The duration of the Grant is over a period of five-year beginning from June 1998. The grant was received in December 1997 but its actual utilization began from June 1998 when the present EC took over charge. The first installment of $ 38,000 (Rs. 15,93,000) was deposited in our Bharat Overseas Bank Account at Delhi. This Grant was utilized for core expenses and Executive Committee meetings of the Association. A sum of Rs. 3,48,991.71 was utilized from the Ford Foundation Grant during the year ended 31 March 1999.

The present EC was lucky to initiate its work without immediate financial constraints. However, we were quite judicious in handling this grant. In October 1999, a sum of Rs. 15,60,000 was deposited for a period of one year at the interest rate of 11 per cent in HDFC Bank at Versova, Mumbai. On maturity it became Rs.17, 39,332.98,which was immediately reinvested for a period of another six months. We have tried to build up a Corpus Fund by not using interest earned on our investment for activities/programs. We have tried to raise money for our various activities from the different funding agencies. I am of the strong opinion that it should be our endeavor to develop a Corpus Fund of the Association over a period so that we can have a permanent office and secretariat.

Membership Fee

The membership fee is also maintained as a Corpus. On 31 March 1999,our Membership-fund corpus stands as Rs.322924.00 (inclusive of Life and Corporate membership). During the financial year 1998-99, 464 new members have joined IAWS in the following categories:

Category	Membership
Life	860
Ordinary	606
Student	87
Institutional	30
Corporate	17
Total	1600

Streamlining of Accounts

There were many inoperative accounts in the name of the Association. at Delhi.The present EC took the decision to close such accounts and transfer all money to SBI Account, Versova, Mumbai. We are grateful to Dr. Rohini Gawankar for accomplishing this task efficiently. She stayed one week at Delhi and did running around from one bank to another. That made my task easier. We would like to thank Shraddha Shah for all the hard work she has put in and would like to express our gratitude to Mssrs. Tembey and Mhatre, our Chartered Accountants.

Funding for Activities

The Indian Association for Women's Studies and the Human Rights Programme, Central University of Hyderabad co-organized a national consultation on Sexual Harassment on University Campuses in January 1999. The IAWS brought out the report on the Sexual Harassment Consultation. The University Grants Commission's Standing Committee on Women's Studies had organized a workshop at Chandigarh from 15-17 April 1999 to bring out a volume on Women's Studies in India. The Association supported the travel expenses of five participants amounting to Rs. 55,584.00. The Association planned a series of five seminars around the theme "Women and Regional Histories". We received $5624.74 (Rs. 2,42,539) from HIVOS for organizing the five Regional Histories Seminars.

Conference Funding

The funding for the IX National Conference has been raised from several funding sources as indicated below.

Funding Agencies		*Amount Received in Indian Currency*
HIVOS		12,27,871.00
ICCO		6,23,494.00
Government of India Dept. of W&CD.		2,00,000.00
Total	Rs.	20,51,365.00

According to our usual policy, we have been able to provide subsidized food and accommodation to all our members, travel reimbursement of invited guests and speakers and also of some paper writers.

The EC wishes to thank all the members for extending co-operation and continued support to the Association and requests every member to take up membership drive seriously. You can help in building up Corpus Fund to manage IAWS' activities efficiently in the next millennium

The attached Balanced Sheet is self-explanatory and provides you more details of the transaction during 1998-99. I submit it for your consideration.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 1999.

Pre Yr	EXPENDITURE	Rs	Rs	Pre Yr	INCOME	Rs	Rs
72249.00	To Salaries To Staff	20000.00			By Interest :		
9587.52	To Depreciation	7526.00		53453.05	On Bank Accounts / Dep. received	73513.07	
---	To Bank Charges	9100.00			On fixed deposit with HDFC	50440.5	
---	To Bal of accr.UTI div. writ. off	1186.96			On fixed deposit with SBI	3243.00	
---	To Donation of furniture to Associa	17455.5					
			63196.36			127196.57	
81936.52				---	Less :Int. allocated to Ford Foundat	63000.00	64196.57
					By Grants received from :		
8500.00	To Professional & Legal Expenses		---	40000.00	Baroda Conference	---	
				50000.00	CWDS	---	
	To Amt Paid to Auditors :			10000.00	ICSSR	---	
---	For Profesional assitance	---		102744.10	EZE	---	
6000.00	For Audit	7500.00		142868.00	MIVOS	---	
2500.00	For Taxation	2500.00		---	Registration fees	205100.00	205100.00
			10000.00				
8500.00				425604.10			
	To Miscellaneous Expenses						
948.20	Other Misc. Exps.		---	---	By Friends of association	4000.00	
				8600.00	By Ordinary membership	30600.00	
	To Expenditure on the object of the			5600.00	By Institutional membership	8400.00	
	Society			1350.00	By Student membership	2200.00	
37559.29	(a) ICSSR	---					45200.00
198103.79	(b) Ford foundation	---		15550.00			
7395.00	(c) Publication exps.	---					
1038.00	(d) EZE exps.	---					
30000.00	(e) Global working group	---		---	By Royalties Received		18373.00
365065.85	(f) Nat. Conf. at Baroda	85002.00					
---	(g) Conference at Pune	30038.85		7607.60	By Dividend from UTI US'64		---
*****	(as per statement)		115849.85				
629161.93				45560.06	By Misc Income / Donation		3758.60
*****							
738966.65			188237.21				
-191171.98	To Surplus carried over to Balance Sh		140390.96				
547774.75			328628.17	547774.75			328628.17

Dated : 30th July, 1999
Place : Mumbai.

for Tembey & Mhatre
Chartered Accountants

(Vikas G. Mhatre)
(Partner)

TEMBEY & MHATRE MUMBAI Chartered Accountants

Dated : 24th July, 1999
Place : SECUNDERABAD
For INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

(General Secretary)

(Treasurer)

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1999.

Prev. Year	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	Rs	Rs	Prev. Year	PROPERTY & ASSETS	Rs	Rs
68585.00	TRUST FUNDS OR CORPUS :				FURNITURE & FIXTURES :		
	Per Last Balance Sheet	68585.00		21549.52	Per Last Balance Sheet	19395.00	
	Add :Additions during the Year	---	68585.00	2154.52	Less : Depreciation	1939.50	
					Less : Donated to Associate Inst	17455.5	

	LIFE MEMBERSHIP :			19395.00			
192874.00	Per Last Balance Sheet	230424.00		- - - - - -			
37550.00	Add :Additions during the period	50000.00	280424.00				
230424.00					COMPUTER		
				49552.00	Per Last Balance Sheet	42119.00	
				7433.00	Less : Depreciation	5586.50	
							36532.50
	CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP :						
32500.00	Per Last Balance Sheet	42500.00		42119.00			
10000.00	Add : Additions during the Year	---	42500.00	- - - - - -			
					INVESTMENTS :		
42500.00				37240.00	U T I '64	37240.00	
							37240.00
	OTHER EARMARKED FUNDS :						
34569.21	Per Last Balance Sheet	42036.21			ADVANCES :		
7467.00	Add : Additions during the period	11220.00		21859.00	To Commit.Members (As per Schedul		18931.01
			53256.21	501724.45	For Pune Conferance		---
42036.21				40000.00	For Baroda Conference		---
1593000.00	Ford Foundation (Grant received	1593000.00		---	Tds on FD Acc. Interest		4681.78
	in advance)						
---	Add : Bank interest (relevant)	63000.00			INCOME RECEIVABLE :		
100000.00	Less : Relevant expenditure	348991.71	1307008.29	15215.20	Dividend on UTI US'64		---
	LIABILITIES :						
13975.10	For Expenses Payable	10000.00			CASH & BANK BALANCE:		
			10000.00	69878.38	Cosmos Co-op. Bank Ltd.	---	
				289829.98	SBI - Dadar	---	
				10418.86	SBI - New Delhi	---	
	INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT :			1457.16	Cash in Hand	---	
1176604.72	Per last Balance Sheet	985432.82		1549318.13	Bharat over.bank New Delhi	176393.13	
-191171.9	Income & Expenditure Account	140390.96		300.84	CBI 14523	---	
			1125823.78	1050.49	CBI 14524	---	
985432.82				---	SBI - Versova	664591.93	
				---	HDFC Bank	10225.61	
							851210.27
				1921445.68			
					DEPOSITS :		
				340000.00	Fixed Deposit with HDFC & SBI	1890000.00	
				36954.00	Add : Accrued Interest	49001.72	
							1939001.72
				376954.00			
2975953.13			2887597.276	2975953.13			2887597.28

Place : Mumbai 30th July '99
As per report of even date
Tejbey & Mhatre .
Chartered Accountants

(Vikas S. Mhatre)
(Partner)

TEJBEY & MHATRE MUMBAI Chartered Accountants

Dated : 24th July, 1999
Place : Secunderabad
For INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

(General Secretary)

(Treasurer)

Indian Association for Women's Studies
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