



IAWS

INDIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

XVII NATIONAL CONFERENCE

7-10 September 2023

In collaboration with
Government College for Women,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Theme: Women's Studies and Women's Movements:
Challenges and Resilience



Presented to the
General Body Meeting held on 9 September 2023
at Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram

Mini Sukumar
General Secretary



www.iaws.co.in

Report of General Secretary



Report of General Secretary

Mini Sukumar, General Secretary

Dear IAWS members,

On behalf of the 16th Executive Committee of IAWS, I extend a warm welcome to all members to the General Body Meeting. IAWS National conference is being organized for the second time in Kerala and in Thiruvananthapuram after 38 years. The second National Conference of IAWS was held at the Institute of Management in Government in Thiruvananthapuram in 1984. The first President of IAWS Dr. Madhuri Shah, in her presidential address proudly mentioned the growth of the new association, as 'A membership of 21 institutions and 271 individuals, a record of two major conferences, some forthcoming publications, and some reserve funds, (instead of an account in the red) these are all signs of healthy growth. In the General Secretary's report Vina Mazumdar elaborated the ambitious objectives of the association as to initiate a number of actions that "try to eliminate attitudinal, conceptual and class biases that hinder understanding of the role and situation of women and their movement towards equality". The 40 years journey of IAWS has accomplished many of these objectives and established its important role as a premier professional association that aims to further women's studies as an interdisciplinary academic field concerned with women, women's movements, feminism and all genders.

This report covers a period from the XVI National Conference held at Delhi in January 2020 in collaboration with National Law University Delhi on the theme “**Constitutional Principles in the 21st Century India: Visions for Emancipation**”. The last EC continued a period of 11 months after the National Conference in January, 2020 and organised various activities during that period. It was an unusual pandemic situation and lockdown. Hence the regional conferences and other activities were planned and held in the webinar/ online mode. This also meant that the activities could be conducted meaningfully and effectively in a more accessible format requiring little organizational resources like funds.

Since January 2020, four conferences were organized in a webinar mode as follows.

- North-eastern conference on “Gender during Covid19: Perspectives from North East” during Aug. 25 – 27, 2020
- Southern International Webinar Series on 'COVID 19 and its Impact on Women' during 15th September 2020 to 14th October 2020
- Western regional conference on 'Gender and Citizenship' during Nov. 25- 28, 2020
- Northern regional conference on 'Constitutional Rights, Women and Livelihood Issues' during Dec. 11-12 and 14-15, 2020

Election of New EC

The election process started in August 2020 the results were declared in 1st December 2020. The newly elected members are

- Mini Sukumar
- Ishita Mukhopadhyay
- Vibhuti Patel
- Elizabeth V.S.
- Asha Hans
- Shadab Bano
- S.Suba
- Wandana Sonalkar
- Nupur Jain- student member

The first meeting of the present EC was held online on 4th January 2021 and elected the office bearers unanimously.

- President: Ishita Mukhopadhyay
- Vice-President: Vibhuti Patel
- General Secretary: Mini Sukumar
- Joint Secretary: Shadab Bano
- Treasurer: S. Suba

Monisha Behal, North- East India and Nirmala Putul, Jharkhand were co-opted to the EC and Bharatidasan University, Tamilnadu was co-opted as representative of Institutional members to the EC.

It was decided to motivate and work towards participation of young people, to develop IAWS website as a key platform to communicate with members and also the larger community and to strengthen regional collaborations to reach out to wider community; as priority concerns. EC has worked a great extent towards these priorities in these almost two and a half year period despite the challenges of the pandemic, working remotely in a situation where all educational institutions were physically closed.

The online meeting platforms activated during the pandemic period was in fact created an opportunity for constant interactions through webinars and meetings. During this period EC meetings and meetings of the secretariat and other sub committees were also convened online and still continuing with the online mode or hybrid mode.

The following activities were accomplished during this period

Activities

1. XVI National Conference was held in 2020 January on the theme 'Constitutional Principles in 21st century India: Visions for Emancipation' in National Law University Delhi.
2. **Webinars**
 - A national webinar was jointly organised by Indian Association for Women's Studies, Feminist Policy Collective (FPC) and Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM) on 21 October 2020, 10.30 AM-2.30 PM. The

key note address was given by Prof. Utsa Patnaik, which focussed on the total background of Indian economic conditions, agrarian distress, and conceptual issues, followed by voices from the field and finally an endnote of Prof. Madhura Swaminathan. Ritu Dewan, Seema Kulkarni, P. Sainath, Sejal Dand, R. Ramakumar, Soma Parthasarathy, Navsharan Singh and Vibhuti Patel were also the speakers.

- Consultation on Policy Papers
- IAWS Jointly organised a two-day virtual workshop with ILO for students working on gender and labour in India on Fundamental Principles on Right to Work on 3rd & 4th March 2022.
- A national level webinar on "Gender Responsive Budgeting: The Way Forward" was organised on 22nd March 2022 jointly with the Kerala State Planning Board.

3. Working with Women's Studies Centers

- A virtual, national convention of the Indian Association of Women Studies (IAWS) on the theme "**Women's Studies Center's (WSC's) Current Concerns and Challenges: Way Forward**" was held on 20th February 2021 over Zoom Meet. A memorandum was prepared and submitted to UGC, including the major concerns raised in the convention and a situational analysis prepared based on a survey conducted. As an outcome of the convention, UGC issued a letter for extension of the scheme till March 2022. In 2023 also IAWS take up in this issue with UGC and another public notice was issued for extension of Women's Studies programme. IAWS efforts to represent WSCs are recognised by the UGC and the Women's Studies community in general. EC is trying to strengthen this engagement through more collaborative programmes in research, curriculum development and documentation of women's experiences at the regional level.
- A collaborative webinar series was organised jointly by IAWS, Department of Women's Studies at Bharathidasan University, the Regional Association for Women's Studies (RAWS), All India Women's Studies Students Forum (AIWSSF) and ILO

with 16 Indian universities in 2021. It was organised with physical and virtual programmes in 2022.

- Women's Studies Pedagogy Workshops – two workshops were conducted to explore ways and means to make the teaching-learning process of Women's Studies/Gender Studies different based on the breaking of hierarchy, bringing transformation in learning, and putting forth the learning from the experience of people. A combine workshop for northern, eastern, north eastern regions was held in Aligarh Muslim University. Similarly a combined workshop for southern, western region was held in University of Calicut.

4. Regional activities & Conferences

Despite the pandemic situation and its continuous impact on people's lives, regional activities of IAWS were going through a very creative phase. EC has given special focus to promote regional activities to connect with the regional communities, women's studies centres and women's movements to highlight regional realities and to encourage research on emerging issues.

- Southern Regional Committee organised 2 webinars, one on recent debates on Age of Marriage and another was on Women in Science.
- For promoting research in Women's Studies to highlight regional realities, small research projects were initiated in regions. The Northern Region completed a documentation project titled '**Documenting Resistance and Resilience: Women's Struggle for Work and Livelihood and presented it in a workshop on 11-12th March, 2022**
- IAWS Eastern and Mid-Eastern Webinar on Women and Migration with special focus on COVID19 in the five states Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh was organised on 6th and 7th May, 2022
- Southern Regional Conference was held online on the topic Debating Current Policies of State, Market and Judiciary in South India: An Intersectional Perspective, on 8th & 9th July

2022. It was organised in collaboration with Tamilnadu National Law University and Department of Women's Studies, Bharatidasan University, Trichy, Tamilnadu

- In collaboration with SAHAJ, the western region organised a conclave on Identifying priorities for gendered research with the SDGs Framework on 10th & 11th November 2022 at KSP Centre for Women's Studies at KSP University Pune.
- Eastern Region initiated a project on ***Situational Analysis of Covid on women in Bengal.***
- The Eastern Regional Conference on **Inequality and Distress: Women's lives in Eastern India** was organised in Collaboration with Institute of Development Studies Kolkata on 17 & 18th November 2022
- 5. Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) Northern Regional Conference was organized on 5th-6th May, 2023 at Miranda House, Delhi University, Delhi. The conference was themed 'Gendering Rights, Debating Justice: Issues and Concerns'
- 6. IAWS Northern Regional Committee has signed a MoU with North East Regional Research and Resource Centre, Miranda House, University of Delhi, for the year 2023-24.
- 7. IAWS in collaboration with Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS) and Rabindra Bharati University, organised a Thematic Consultation on Women and Tourism on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the conference hall of the Rabindra Bharati University, Jorashanko, Kolkata.

8. Jharkhand Project

The transition of the Jharkhand Project to the new funding agency CRY America is complete now. The second phase of the project is going well. Activities are expanded to other districts and other universities. It is very significant to report the GB that a MoU has been signed with S.K.M. University, Dumka to establish the ground-breaking 'Adivasi Women Resource Centre', which will be the first of its kind in the country.

Another MoU has been signed with Xavier's Institute of Social Services, Ranchi solidifying and strengthening our on-going partnership in a more consolidated manner in the field of academic collaborations.

The syllabus for a 6-Month Certificate course has been submitted to the relevant authority at Ranchi University. We expect to start the course in this academic year.

After the last conference, 8 research grants, 2 PhD fellowships and 12 internships were provided from this project. All report submitted

IAWS, Xavier Institute of Social Sciences, C3Sakshamaa jointly organised a Conference titled, 'Economic Empowerment of Women in East India and The Role of Women's Collectives, in XISS Ranchi from 17-18th March 2023. It witnessed a meeting of academicians, policymakers, and activists who had assembled highlight share and learn from the experiences of various women's collectives working actively in the low-income states of Eastern India.

9. Joint Panels in National Conferences

IAWS organised a joint Panel on 'Agrarian Distress, Farmer's Protest and the Question of Women Farmers' in the 81st Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held at SMDV University Katra, Jammu and Kashmir on 2nd December 2021 virtually.

Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) and IAWS jointly organised Eighth panel in the ISLE National Conference in IIT-Roorkee on The Endemic and The Pandemic: Tracking Women's Employment and Working Conditions, on Wednesday, 13th April 2022.

IAWS participated in the joint panel with the Indian Association of Life Skills Education international Conference held during Nov 4th -6th 2022 at Delhi for which a joint panel on Round Table on "Gender Inclusion for a Sustainable future". Prof. Manimekhalai coordinated the panel.

Ninth ISLE-IAWS joint panel with Indian Society of Labour Economics was held from March 2, 2023 at Itanagar on Labour and Women's Movement: Junctures and Disjunctures.

10. Sisters of Tezpur' (Revisiting the 100 year old Golden History of Tezpur Mahila Samiti) The archival public exhibition was organised in the Tezpur Mahila Samiti collaboratively by Tezpur Mahila Samiti (TMS), Chandraprabha Saikiani Department of Women Studies, Tezpur University (TU) and the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) from 16th to 18th March 2023. The exhibition design was done by NorthEast Lightbox (NELB)- <https://northeastlightbox.com>. was organised.

11. Newsletter

During this period only one issue of the Newsletter was released in October 2021, mainly due to the difficulties of working remotely. The next two issues are almost ready and will be released soon.

12. Publications

A meeting Ms. Shoma Choudhury, Commissioning Manager, Routledge India publications with respect to the publication of IAWS conference papers and research studies was held and Routledge India is ready to work with IAWS and publish a series of books on gender.

13. Research

Vina Majumdar Memorial Fellowship awardees were selected for the last two years.

2020, - Ujwal Yadav : The temptress & beyond : women & households in Jatakas.

2022 - Gayatri Balu : Masculinity and Marriage : Interrogating Possession Among Velichappad Men of North Kerala.

The first Triennial Preet Rustagi Research Fund Award research study on "Combating COVID19 in the Forefront: Gendered Experiences of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in

Kerala" by Dr. Niyati R. Krishna is presented in the national conference.

The second Preet Rustagi Research Fund Award has been announced on 'Changing conditions of work for women in recent times'.

In Jharkhand project research methodology workshops, research grants trainings are being conducted regularly.

14. IAWS Archives in RCWS

The Archives Committee identified certain gaps in documentation and took initiative for the development of software, and encouraging the involvement of students and taking interns.

Organisation

1. Membership

The total number of membership of IAWS is as follows –

Life members: 2253

Student Members : 127

Institutional : 46

There is an increase of 242 Life members, 70 Student members and 3 Institutional members after 2021 January after the current EC in place.

2. EC Meetings

During this period 10 EC meetings were held in which 8 meetings were in online and 2 meetings in offline mode. The present EC convened its first in person meeting on 19th November 2022 in Kolkata after two years of its establishment. But in the new normal times virtual meetings were very helpful, time and resources saving and the EC had more interactions virtually

3. Secretariat

IAWS Secretariat has been functioning from Department of Women's Studies, University of Calicut in Kerala from 2021 January.

The finance office is operating from a new office Indian Association for Women's Studies, Chandra House, 2nd Floor, 8 Lady Harding Road, Gole Market, New Delhi-110001 for the time being. This is placed for the information of the GB.

4. Policy on preventing sexual harassment – The IAWS Code to Promote Gender Sensitization and Combat Sexual Harassment at the Workplace is prepared and approved by the EC. It is placed in the IAWS website.
5. The new website of IAWS is functional with the address www.iaws.co.in

6. XVII National Conference Preparations

The Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) is holding its XVII National Conference in Trivandrum (7- 10 September 2023), the capital city of Kerala, in collaboration with Government College For Women. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr.R Bindu, Minister for Higher Education, Govt of Kerala and inaugural address delivered by prominent economist, Prof. Gita Sen. Kerala state has a legacy of movements and struggles for women's rights & social justice and viewed as the hub for development alternatives, focusing on marginalized sections, in particular. The conference theme “ Women's Studies and Women's Movements: Challenges and Resilience” aims at engaging in critical and creative ways to reimagine women's studies as a academic discipline and the role of diverse women's movements in challenging and extending knowledge systems and alternate modes of actions. A one- day pre-conference of students on 6th September will focus on the transformative potential of women's studies in higher education. The conference preparations are done by the active support of an organizing committee with 13 subcommittees for assistance and support for various matters. IAWS EC and members are thankful for the support given by the host institution and the members of all the committees. ■



Treasurer's Report

Suba S.

I welcome you all to the General Body of Indian Association of Women's Studies.

I am now presenting the Treasurer's Report with the Statement of Accounts from December 2020 till December 2023.

I took over the charge of Treasurer from **Ishita Mukhopadhyay** in the First Executive Committee Meeting of the Association on 4.01.2021.

The funds of IAWS are operated jointly by General Secretary, President and Treasurer in a transparent manner as decided in the EC. The central financial office of IAWS for banking, accounts 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. However, at presently IAWS Financial office address C/O 25 CWDS Bhai vir sing Marg 10001 has been changed into the new address 2Nd Floor Chandra House, 8 lady Harding Road, Gole Market New Delhi 11001. Such continuity in the location of the financial office has ensured that all the operations related to taxation, accounts, general funding remain streamlined and properly maintained. This ensures stability of financial accounting, maintaining records and maintaining regularity with regard to submission of the requisite papers in compliance with reporting and

submission of financial records as per FCRA and Income Tax Regulations. The IAWS Secretariat has been able to adapt to the continuously changing formats of reporting and submission of financial records as per the FCRA and Income Tax regulations.

IAWS has been received FCRA renewal Certificate and valid from 01.04.2023 for five years.

EC has minimize the cost of EC meetings by holding EC meetings through online platform during, simultaneously with seminars and other programmes where some of the EC members participated and their travel costs were covered by the programme or seminar. This is an attempt which has been going on since the outgoing EC and to build the Corpus Funds.

The detailed audited statement of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 have been compiled and kept in the office. As on 30.6.2023, INR 10,24,758.24/-has been obtained from Membership of the Association. Preet Rustagi Research Fund of INR 6,00,000 was received from Dr. Uma Rani. In the outgoing EC in the year 2017 it was decided that this fund could be utilized for the Purpose of Best Research Proposal.

Ford Foundation has supported IAWS with core maintenance grant of US\$ 5,50,000 of which US\$50,000 was earmarked for XV National Conference. It was sanctioned with the stipulation and specificities that a 30% of the interest accrued from the Ford grant must be invested in order to maintain financial stability and sustainability. This has become difficult with continuously lowered interest rates. We are grateful to Ford Foundation for this support.

The last EC obtained a grant of INR 87,87,230 approved by Oak Foundation to develop Women's Studies in Jharkhand. Oak Foundation approved a grant of INR 21,960,000 for the project "Consolidating the Centre for Women's Studies in Jharkhand" for the period December 2018 till November 2022 as part of the second phase in the programme. From CRY CHILD RIGHT and YOU AMERICA (as earlier OAK Foundation) INR72,29,292 has been received as second instalment. Six Regional Workshops were organized during this period. Newsletter was published. IAWS Website was reconstructed

and updated. I thank all the institutions, Calcutta University, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University, Miranda house, Calicut University, Aligarh Muslim University, Bharathidasan University, and Tamil Nadu National Law University along with the sponsors in these programmes for making these programmes successful.

For the XVI National Conference 2020, the Association approached several organizations and donors. It is my duty to thankfully acknowledge the monetary contribution from UNFPA, ICRW, IWAGE, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Kerala Council for Historical Research and many others which approximately contribute to INR10,00,000. Funds also came from allotting stalls and registration to the conference.

The Income Tax Return (ITR –V) of the Association was filed up to the Financial Year 2021-22. And the Quarterly Returns are also up to date.

Sincere thanks go to Auditor Suri Malhotra and Associates for their professional support, guidance and advice. Thanks to IAWS Secretariat for maintaining the day to day expenditure in running of the activities of the Association.

We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors Kerala Women Development Corporation, Kerala Tourism, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, UNFPA and ICRW for their generous support towards XVII National Conference. ■



Reg. No.: S/12936

IAWS Secretariat
C/o Department of Women's Studies
University of Calicut, Kerala 673 635

Ph: +91-0494-2407366/2407339
E.mail: iaws.secretariat@gmail.com
Website <http://www.iaws.co.in>