

3rd National Conference

REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE I.A.W.S FROM MARCH 1985-SEPTEMBER, 1986.

L.M.JACOB

It gives me great pleasure to present before you the report on the activities of the Indian Association for Women's Studies from March, 1985- September, 1986. This period has been full of happenings arousing hopes and expectations among all those who feel concerned about the well-being of the humankind in general and women in particular. Many developments have taken place in the realm of Women's studies and aspects of the new education policy pertaining to women's welfare are still being debated. We have thus been faced with tremendous responsibilities to do our bit in this regard and to translate emerging possibilities into concrete achievements. Having stated this, let me briefly deal with the activities of the Association for the period 1985-86, and the objectives which we seek to pursue in the years to come.

The Indian Association for Women's Studies which was registered in 1982, represents a cross-section of educated persons – women and some men – institutions and organizations. Among the many objectives of the Association, the major aim is to provide the development of women's studies and to provide a forum for interaction between members of the academic community – teachers, researchers and students – and persons and organizations involved in action for women's development at various levels.

ACTIVITIES: The Association has been focusing attention on problems concerning women and organizing women's studies in India. As a follow-up of the resolution adopted in the Second National Conference that the Association should promote a national study on the role of women in the freedom struggle, the Association constituted a Task Force for this purpose. The Task Force completed its work and submitted its report which has been accepted by the Executive Committee (Report is being circulated).

The Association emphasized the need for debate and discussions for the development of clear perspectives for the introduction of women's studies courses and establishment of Women's Studies Units in various Universities and Colleges. The University of Delhi took the lead and organised a Seminar on "Perspectives and Organisation of Women Studies Units in Indian Universities" in April, 1985.

Members will be happy to learn that in response to the resolution No.4 about the poor people and women in particular who largely collect firewood are being blamed for the destruction of forests etc., which was adopted at the Second National Conference at Trivandrum, we have been officially informed by the Forests and Fisheries Dept., Madras in its letter No. 9390/FRX/85-9 dated 31.12.1985 that steps are being taken to help the poor-fold particularly women to meet their fuel needs and to avoid contractual agency in course of time.

As approved by the previous Executive Committee the 1st Regional Conference on International Women's Decade and Public Policy, focusing on the five Hindi speaking states was organised by the A.N.D.M.N. Mahavidyalaya, Kanpur from 26th to 28th April, 1985 under the sponsorship of the Association.

As a follow-up of the Regional Conference for Asia on Women and the Household, organised by I.A.W.S. in New Delhi from 27 to 31 January, 1985 in collaboration with the

IUAES Commission on Women and R.C. 32 "Women in Society" of the International Sociological Association, the Report of the Conference and a volume of Abstracts of papers were presented and discussed at the Forum 85 at Nairobi in July, 1985. The copies of these two documents were also distributed in the UN Conference on End of the Women's Decade at Nairobi. Five volumes of selected papers presented in the five sub-themes at the Regional Conference on Women and Household are being published. These volumes will start appearing from the end of this year.

Keeping in view one of the objectives of the Association "to take all such action that may be deemed necessary, to bring about a change in social values with a view to eliminating attitudinal, conceptual and class biases that hinder understanding of the role and situation of women and their movement towards equality", the Executive Committee of the Association in its 9th meeting on 31st March, 1986 resolved to send a resolution to the Prime Minister of India requesting him "to withdraw the proposed Muslim Women(Protection of Rights on Divorce) bill, 1986 as it violates the constitutional rights of Muslim women and infringes the secular framework of the Indian Republic as well as the constitutional commitment to justice for all citizens".

According to a Resolution of the Executive Committee, the Association in collaboration with the Research Committee 32 on "Women in Society" of the International Sociological Association, organised a session on the "Importance of a focus on women for a more purposeful social science" at the XI World Congress of Sociology held in New Delhi in August, 1986. The topics on which papers were presented or oral presentations were made, and discussions held, dealt with gender in economics, the complexity of Indian Society and the need for a focus on women, nutrition policy, nutrition studies and women, and recent developments in women's studies in India.

The Association added a new leaf to its activities when it started the publication of a newsletter. The spirit of the newsletter is to create awareness of women's concerns and provide a forum for continuing debate on problems concerning women and society at large so that eventually a specific women's view of life different from the currently accepted one, emerges. To begin with, it was decided to publish three issues a year. Two issues (January and March, 1986) are already published. The third issue of the newsletter will be published after the Conference would be reported.

FINANCES: During the financial year 1984-85, the Association received an amount of Rs.59, 347.00 from membership, subscriptions, donations and grants from various agencies. The Association received Rs.1, 18,757 and Rs.2, 74,566 from various agencies for the second National Conference and the Regional Conference respectively. The accounts of the period ending 31st March, 1985 have been audited and are attached to this report for members' information. They were adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on 30th September, 1986.

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The Third National Conference is being held from 1st October, 1986 at Chandigarh. A total of delegates are participating in this Conference. The Punjab University has acted as host providing its premises and other facilities for holding the conference. Out thanks are due to the Punjab University for the cooperation that they have extended to making this Conference a success.

The First and Second National Conferences were intended to create awareness about the range of issues and to begin some sustained and constructive work in consolidating documentation and communication respectively. The III National Conference focuses on the innumerable struggles relating to women's specific concerns as well as the broader national issues. We hope that the workshops on 14 sub-themes will provide a forum for interaction between academics and activists and the deliberations will provide a body of material which would help teaching institutions to introduce greater coverage on women's issues in their teaching programmed and will also accelerate the women's movement in the country. Our thanks are due to all the Co-ordinators who have worked extremely hard during the last few months to organise these work-shops.

This Conference has been made possible by the financial support that the Association has received from a number of agencies. We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the University Grants Commission for providing a grant of Rs.15,000/- the Indian Council of Social Science Research for a grant of Rs.10,000/-, the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Dept. of Women and Child Development for Rs.20,000/- for holding the Conference. The UNICEF which supported the earlier two National Conferences and Regional Conference on Women and Household has been consistent in its support of studies of women's development, has provided a grant of Rs.40,000/- this time. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation has provided a grant Rs. 40.00/- and the All India Association for Christian Higher Education a grant Rs.5000/-. We have also made use of earlier grants received by the Association. Our gratitude to all these agencies for their support and expression of confidence in our work. Above all, our thanks are due to the members of the Organising Committee and Dr.Pam Rajput, the Organising Secretary, for their untiring efforts to make this Conference a success.

The response that we have received from Universities, research institutes, colleges, especially Women's Colleges and the funding agencies and all of you who have taken the trouble to come from almost every nook and corner of the country to participate in this Conference provided ample evidence that the development of women's studies is no longer the dream of a handful of people. We stand at a critical period in our development when women's issues pose one of the major challenges to all those who bear the onerous responsibility of nation building. The new women's movement is articulating the aspirations and the consciousness of a far large sections of women in this country than ever before, regarding various kind of problems – socio-economic and political being faced by women in this country. While we must continue to press the need for greater attentions to these issues on the Government, it is essential on our part to recognise our own responsibility at the same time.

ELECTIONS: The rules of the Association provide an elected Executive Committee with separate constituencies for individual members, life members, institutional members and student members for a period of two years through a system of ballot. The Second Executive for 1985-87 was elected and took charge in 1985. The present Executive Committee members represent various parts of India.

The announcement about the second general election of the IAWS to elect the members of the III Executive for 1987-89 has already been made in the IAWS Newsletter No.2, May, 1986. The process of the election will be initiated from 15th Oct., 1986, when a notice will be issues to members of the Association. The electoral list of members will include only those who have enrolled themselves as members upto 31st July, 1989. Professor Aleo J. Dastur (Retired Professor from Bombay University) has been appointed as the Returning Officer. The schedule of the election is given in Appendix-I.

Certain lacunae have been found in the byelaws regarding election and rules and regulations of the Association during the tenure of the present Executive Committee. In view of the infeasibility of convening a General Body meeting just for the announcement of election results as required under the provisions of the Constitution of the IAWS, the E.C. resolved that the Members of the Association be requested by the post to consider amendments in the Constitution in bye-laws for election-9 and rules and regulation of the Association – 6f(V). The amendment thus recommended and approved by the members of the IAWS were finally approved by the EC in its meeting held on 30th Jan., 1986. The amendment is appended for the information of the General Body (Appendix-II).

We are sorry to report that Dr. Madhuri R. Shah, the President of the Association is unable to be present at this Conference because of indisposition. Her unstinted support and leadership have been of immense value in our activities. We are, however, happy to report that she continues to evince keen interest in our activities and it is through her intervention that the University Grants Commission has requested all Universities to introduce teaching, research and extension activities fro the promotion of women’s studies. Recently, the U.G.C. has identified seven Universities – Kerala University, Trivandrum, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Ranchi University, Ranchi, University of Delhi, Delhi and South Gujarat University, Surat – for initiating curriculum development programme in women’s studies. This is a tremendous stride in our development and we hope that member institutions will make their contribution to promote the cause of women in higher education in India.

The Membership of the Association at present stands as under:-

1. Life members	105
2. Ordinary members	200
3. Institutional members	13
4. Corporate members	8
5. Student member	51
6. Associate members	18
	<u>395</u>

I would like top request all members to assist in the task of enrolling more members in all categories in order to give the association a stronger base.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Association for electing me as the General Secretary for 1985-87 and for giving me a chance to work for the Association. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee and particularly the President for the advice, cooperation and guidance, thereby making my task as General Secretary not the burdensome and awesome one, it could have become.

Encl. As above.

**Report by the out-going General Secretary
On the activities of the IAWS from October 1986 to March 1987.**

This report for the period 1st Oct., 1986 to 30th March, 1987 is in continuation to the General Secretary's report presented at and adopted by the General Body of the Indian Association for Women's Studies which met on 3rd Oct., 1986 at the Panjab University, Chandigarh at 18.00 hrs.

Activities

The Third National Conference on Women's Studies.

The Third National Conference on Women's Studies sponsored by the IAWS was held at the Panjab University, Chandigarh from 1st to 4th Oct., 1986. A total of 356 delegates from different regions in the country as well as from different vocations participated in the Conference. Under the broad sub-theme of "Women, Struggles, and Movements: thirteen sub-themes ranging from Women's involvement in struggles in different economic spheres, their participation in political and religious struggles, and struggles in the domain of culture, and the relationship of these struggles to other democratic movements. Three plenary sessions on "Relevance of Women's Studies", "Development Alternatives; Women's Perspectives" and "Women, Struggles and Movements: The Punjab experience were also organised. The Conference also passed eleven resolutions.

As a follow up of the Conference a summary of the discussion held in each of the sub-themes sessions and the eleven resolutions have been published in the Newsletter, No.3, December 1986.

The EC in its meeting held on 27th Feb., 1987 took a decision to publish a consolidated substantive report of the thirteen sub-themes and also of the panel sessions. Towards this all the Co-ordinators have been requested to send in a report of their sub-themes in consultation with their respective groups. A Board of Editors – U.Kalpagam, Vasanti Devi, Anjana Mangalagiri, Ranika Sarkar, Uma Chakravarthy and Suhila Kaushik – with Lucy Jacob as the Convenor and the Co-ordinator has been constituted to look after the publication of this report as well as the series of volumes later. It was also decided that the tapes of panel sessions when they are received from the Organising Secretary of the Conference should be transcribed and sent to the authors for revision.

The EC also resolved that the resolutions passed at the Conference should be sent to the relevant agencies.

Second General Body Meeting

The Second General Body meeting of the Association was held on 3rd Oct., 1986 at 18.00 hrs at the Panjab University. The minutes of the General Body Meeting duly approved by the President along with the list of members present at the meeting are enclosed for information.

A list of total members of the Association enrolled till March 1987 is attached herewith for the EC's approval since this will have to be submitted to the Registrar of Societies.

Elections

In accordance with the Election Schedule approved by the EC, the process of the second general election of the Association to elect the members of the Third Executive for

1987-89 was initiated from 15th Oct., 1986 when notices along with the byelaws of the Association, nomination forms, consent letters etc. were sent to all the members of the Association by the General Secretary. The election was conducted by the Returning Officer, Miss Aloo J.Dastur. The General Secretary announced the results of the election to the Executive Committee at its meeting held on 27th Feb., 1987. The results which were duly approved by the EC were communicated to all the members of the IAWS by post on 28th Feb., 1987 as per schedule. The results of the election in detail are given in the minutes of the last EC meeting for information.

The first meeting of the newly constituted EC has been convened in consultation with the President on the 30th March, 1987 for conducting the election of the office-bearers of the Association.

Publications

The EC members will be happy to learn that the first volume "Invisible Hands" of the book of Women and Household Conference has been brought out by Sage Publications in Feb., 1987. The second volume of the book is being published by "Kali for Women".

As announced in General Secretary's report presented at the Second General Body meeting, the third issue of the Newsletter has been published in Dec., 1986 as special Number on Third National Conference.

Finance

The audited statement of accounts for the period ending 31st March 1986 and a broad statement of income and expenditure for the year 1986-87 will be presented by the out going Treasurer.

In conclusion I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to the out-going colleagues on the Executive Committee and particularly the President for the cooperation and guidance thereby making my task as General Secretary less difficult.

(L.M.Jacob)
GENERAL SECRETARY

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

No. IAWS/86-87

C.75,
Saarwarkar Marg,
Tilak Nagar,
Jaipur – 302004

Dear Member:

I am herewith sending a copy of the minutes of the General Body meeting of the I.A.W.S. held on 3rd Oct., 1986 at Chandigarh at 6.00 p.m. for your information.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(L.M.Jacob)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Encl. As above.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

Minutes of the Second General Body Meeting held on 3rd October 1986

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The Second General Body meeting of the Indian Association for Women's Studies was held on Friday, the 3rd October, 1986 at 18.00 hours at the Panjab University, Chandigarh. In the absence of Dr. Madhuri R.Shah, the President of the Association Dr. Leela Dube, Vice-President of the Association, was in the Chair.

The list of members who attended the meeting is attached.

The General Body at the outset passed the following condolence resolution expressing its regrets at the passing away of Dr. Har Swaroop Lallak, the husband of Dr. (Mrs.) Hemlata Swaroop, one of the founder members of the Association:

“This meeting of the General Body of the Indian Association for Women's Studies notes with deep regret the passing away on September, one of our founder members and the first Vice-President of the Association after years of a happy partnership. We record our sorrow and share her grief at this moment of her loss”.

Item No.1

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Body held on 31st January, 1986.

The minutes were confirmed unanimously by the General Body.

Item No.2

Receiving a report by the General Secretary on the activities of the Association together with the audited statement of accounts for the period ending 31st March, 1985.

The General Secretary presented a report on the activities of the Association for the period from March 1985 – September 1986 along with the audited statement of accounts for

the period from 1st April, 1984 to 31st March, 1985. The report describing the activities, membership and the financial position of the Association was adopted by the General Body.

The audited report for the period ending 31st March, 1985 was also adopted. It was noted that the report covered the expenditure on the Second National Conference which was held in April 1984 and also the expenditure of the Asian Regional Conference on Women and the Household (concluded on 31st January, 1985) have been dealt with in the auditor's report for the financial year 1984-85.

Item No.3

Consideration of amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

Certain lacunae have been found in the bye-laws regarding election and rules and regulations of the Association during the tenure of the present Executive Committee. In view of the impracticability of convening a General Body meeting just for the announcement of election results as required under the provisions of the constitution of the IAWS, the EC resolved that the members of the Association be requested by post to consider amendments in the constitution in by-laws for election – 9 and 6 of (V). The amendment thus recommended and approved by the members of the IAWS which were finally approved by the EC in its meeting held on 30th January, 1986 was reported to the General Body for information.

The Executive Committee recommended to the General Body certain additions/ amendments to improve the operational ability of the Association. The additions/amendments recommended by the EC along with the explanatory notes were discussed by the General Body and approved with the following additions in the rules and regulations of the Association.

“To facilitate the preparation of the electoral lists of members of the Association well in time before the process of election is initiated, for the future election purposes August 16th of the election year should be considered as the last date for enrolment of members to be eligible to exercise the right to vote the elections to the IAWS.”

Membership fee for any one who has no source of income may be Rs.10/- was proposed and passed by the General Body.

The General Secretary was authorised to file the revised rules of the Association with the Registrar of Societies as required under the Indian Societies Registration Act.

Item No.4

Announcement of Election Schedule.

The General Secretary announced the Election Schedule of IAWS to elect the members of the third Executive for 1987-89 which had already been notified in the IAWS Newsletter, No.2, May 1986. Some of the details about the election were also reported to the General Body. The process of election will be initiated from 15th October, 1986 when a notice will be issued to the members of the Association. The electoral list of members will include only those who have enrolled themselves as members up to 31st July, 1986. Professor Aloo J.Dastur, (Retd. Professor from Bombay University) has been appointed as the Returning Officer.

Item No.5

Any other matter with the consent of the Chair.

Suggestions put forward by the members.

1. Many suggestions were put forward by various members of the Association. The members felt that women's studies conferences were very different from other academic conferences because in the former both theory and practice are reflected and discussions are extremely useful both to clarify concepts and for sharing of experiences. Hence they advocated for :
 - (a) Longer sessions to have more time for discussions
 - (b) No wasting of time on rituals like inauguration etc.
 - (c) To have working lunches/tea.
 - (d) More structural sessions.
 - (e) Distribution of conference papers to all delegates, free of charge so that access to information is not confined to those who can afford it.
2. To constitute working committee of delegates and local organisers of the conference in order to establish better communication in sorting out organizational problems during the conference days.
3. Crèche should be built into the future conference.
4. Special sessions on the Panjab were as meaningless as the one we had on Kerala for the Conference in Trivandrum as they failed to raise either general issues or specific issues relating to women in Panjab. Hence for such sessions in future conferences speakers should be chosen in consultation with the Co-ordinators.
5. The special session on the Chipko Movement were rather disappointing from the organisational point of view as well as from the number of audience. In future such important and special sessions on specific movements which focus on socio-economic-political situation and condition of women should be organised effectively.

Item No.6

Remarks from the Chair.

In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson, Ms. Leela Dube expressed satisfaction over the overall success of the Conference. However, she emphasised the need for sustained effort by all the members to undertake, encourage and strengthen the activities for Women's Studies in institutions/Colleges/Universities and also to encourage younger people to enter this field. The papers of the various sub-themes presented at the Conference displayed great deal of in-depth investigation and she expressed her appreciation to the Co-ordinators for their work. The Chairperson commented on the participation of both activists and activists-cum-academics in the Conference. She also

expressed the hope that the next Executive Committee would have many new members and while combining experience with fresh perspectives, it would be much younger in terms of age. She appreciated the suggestions regarding doing away with the inauguration and other suggestions to stream-line the future conferences and to make them more fruitful. She expressed appreciation for the excellent work of the General Secretary who had carried out her responsibilities conscientiously and in a dedicated manner. She also thanked all the EC organising the Conference.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(L.M.Jacob)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Encls. : As above

GENERAL BODY MEETING

3rd October, 1986 at 6030 P.M.

List of the members who attended the meeting

1.	Saroj Sherman Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, 1-B, University Maharani's College Staff Colony, Near Diggi House, Jaipur – 302 004	13.	Sujata Miri Department of Philosophy NEHU, Shillong – 793 001 Meghalaya
2.	T.K.Shakuntala 3-A, Maharani's College Campus, Near Diggi House, Jaipur –302 004.	14.	Annu Krishnaswami B-33, Greater Kailash, New Delhi – 110 048
3.	Suguna Pathy Department of Sociology South Gujarat University Surat – 395 007.	15.	Uma Rao 15, Tagore Town Allahabad
4.	Vibhuti Patel 2/72, "Geleki", ONGC Flats Reclamation, Bandra (W) Bombay – 400 050	16.	Lotika Sarkar L1/10, Hauz Khas New Delhi.
5.	Karuna M. Braganza General Secretary AIACHE, C-6, Community Centre, S.D.A., New Delhi – 110 016	17.	Kamla Khatri Mata Gujri Hall Panjab University Chandigarh – 160 014.
6.	Vina Mazumdar Member-Secretary, Centre for Women's Development Studies B-43, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi – 110 016.	18.	Sudha Kambaj Mata Gujri Hall Panjab University Chandigarh – 160 014.
7.	J.Varalakshmi Centre for Women's Development Studies Hyderabad.	19.	Sunita Chaudhary Mata Gujri Hall, PanjabUniversity, Chandigarh – 160 014.
8.	Lalita Balakrishnan 28, Munirka Enclave, New Delhi – 110 001. IENS Building,6-7 Rafi Marg, New Delhi- 110 001	20.	Kasturi Sen Gupta Mata Gujri Hall, Panjab University Chandigarh – 160 014
9.	Janak Dulari Co-Ordinator Bahai Vocational Institute For Rural Women, 180 Bhamori, New Dewas Road – 452 008.	21.	Poonam Sawhney Mata Gujri Hall Panjab Univesirity Chandigarh – 160 014.
10.	Zarina Bhattay USAD, American Embassy, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110 021.	22.	Trupti Shah Jagmata's Pole Baroda – 390 001 (Gujarat)
11.	Malini Kaushal IIPS, Deonar, Bombay – 400 088	23.	Shruni Shah D/2,Manuta Flats, Ghad-dad Road, Athuwa Lines, Surat – 395 007
12.	Janaki Sinha Department of History SSLNTM College, Dhanbad (Bihar)	24.	Amrapali Desai 1/1139, Kalupeshi Street, Nanpra, Surat (Gujarat)

25.	Chiyoka Torll 304, Lions Mansion Yaroicho Dai-2, 75-1, Yaraicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162 Japan	37.	Yasmin Qadiri Department of Bio-Chemistry University of Kashmir Srinagar – 190 006.
26.	Prabha Mahale Anthropology Department Karnataka University Dharwad (Karnataka)	38.	A.Q.Siddiqi State Resource Centre University of Kashmir Srinagar, Kashmir
27.	Divya Pandey Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT University, Bombay.	39.	K.Janaki 1-9-626, Adikmet Hyderabad – 500 044(A.P)
28.	Pam Rajput Deptt.Of Political Science Panjab University Chandigarh – 160 014.	40.	A. Ramanemma 0-1, Teacher's Quarters, University of Poona, Pune – 411 007
29.	Laltu (H.Singh) Department of Chemistry Panjab University Chandigarh – 160 014.	41.	Colette Monteire Good Shepherd Sisters, Museum Road, Bangalore – 560 025
30.	Anjali Deshpande A-199, Pandra Road Flats, New Delhi – 110 003	42.	P.L.Mehta 486-7B, Faridabad (Haryana)
31.	Chhaya Datat 7-8 Manjiri, Mekanand Society Veer Sarvakar Marg Mahim, Bombay – 400 016.	43.	Sulekha Das C/o Shri S.K.Das 3/28, Shastri Avenue Bidhan Nagar, P.O.Durgapur -12 West Bengal.
32.	Govind Kelkar Centre for Women's Dev. Studies B-423, Panchsheel Enclave New Delhi- 110 017	44.	Neeru Khanna 832, Sector II, Sadiq Nagar New Delhi – 110 049
33.	Nirmala Banerjee Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, 10, Lake Terrace, Calcutta – 29.	45.	Sunanda Das University Hostel for Women Delhi University Delhi - 110 007
34.	Surinder Jetley Department of Sociology Banaras Hindu University Varanasi – 221 005.	46.	Subrata Mishra Ph.D. Student Delhi University Delhi – 110 007
35.	Kamlesh Jhuani Centre for Women's Dev. Studies B-423, Panchsheel Enclave New Delhi- 110 017	47.	Sushila Agarwal Director Centre for Women's Studies University of Rajasthan, Jaipur – 302 004
36.	Premilla Kapur IHDSF, K/37A Green Park New Delhi – 110 017.	48.	Amrit Nikore W-56, Greater Kailash – I, New Delhi – 110 048.

49.	Jasodhara Bagchi 428, Jodhpur Park Calcutta.	61.	Sushila Mehta D-4, Gulindhar park, New Delhi – 110 049.
50.	Ratnabali Chatterjee 135, Rashbelian Avenue, Calcutta-29	62.	Nandita Haskar 56 Munirka Enclave New Delhi – 110 067
51.	Tanika Sarkar Flat 17, 32 Alipur Road, New Delhi – 110 054	63.	Rajamma, G. Institute of Social Studies Trust, Tharanga 10 th Cross, RMV, Extension Bangalore 80
52.	U. Kalpagam MIDS, 79 Hind Main Road Gandhi Nagar, Madras – 20	64.	Mamta Jaitly C-85, Ramdas Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur – 302 004
53.	Sushila S.Salunkhe General Hospital Solapur.	65.	Chitra Rathore Jodhpur Adult Education Association, Gandhi Bhawan, Residency Road, Jodhpur – 1
54.	Anuradha A.Athawale 310 Somawarpeth Pune – 11.	66.	Diameuel Obenein Sham Rock Bank Simla East.
55.	Kamal V.Vaykele Nilkant Apartment, Dadar, Gokuldas Road, Bombay.	67.	Dimple Abenoi Vahali Sham Rock Bank, Simla East.
56.	Suman S. Tilekar ESIS Hospital Quarters, Type – III B 11, Aundh Camp, Pune – 27	68.	Lata P.M. Women Centre, B-104, Sunrise Apartments, Above Canara Bank, Vakola, Santacruz (E) Bombay -55
57.	Sujata Madhok 4/3 Shanti Niketan, New Delhi.	69.	Padma Prakash Economic & Political Weekly 284 Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Skylark, Bombay -58
58.	Kamlesh Yadav IDARA, C-85, Ramdas Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur.	70.	Kalpana Kannabiram D-265 Sarvodaya Enclave New Delhi – 110 017
59.	Prabha A-11/58 C, Kalkaji East, New Delhi – 110 024.	71.	Ritu Dewan Department of Economics University of Bombay Kalina, Santacruz (E) Bombay – 55.
60.	Silver Budd C/0 5 Allen Street Gleba 2037, Sydney NSW (Australia)	72.	Nirmala Nair C-219, Gyan Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur – 302 004

73.	Aruna Roy Tilonia Ajmer District – 305 816 Rajasthan	85.	Kishwar A. Shiram Psychology Department, H.P.University, Simla – 171 005
74.	Fatema Mehta C-531, SFS Houses, Shiekh Saria J, New Delhi – 110 017	86.	Mrs. Amarjeet Kaur 575-B, Rishi Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi – 110 034
75.	Nafasa Begum 'Ankur', B-41, Nizamuddin East New Delhi.	87.	Sabha Husain J-20, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi – 110 014.
76.	Sarala Singh 'Ankur', B-41, Nizamuddin East New Delhi.	88.	Rajini Pariwala Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics Delhi University, Delhi
77.	Vidhya Sudhakar Department of Psychology Andhra University, Visakhapatnam (A.P)	89.	Manish Gupta A-9, Nav Samaj, Nehru Road, Vile Parle (E), Bombay – 400 057
78.	Hari Lakshmi V. 16-8-7, Official Colony, Visakhapatnam – 530 002 (A.P)	90.	Siddeshwari Sharma 48, Sardar Nagar Moga – 142 001.
79.	V.Kalpna Rao Department of Psychology Andhra University Visakapatnam (A.P)	91.	Marian Shahanag Karim Institute of Foreign Languages, Univeristy of Kashmir, Hazrathbal, Srinagar-190 006.
80.	Tanushree II/11 Sanket Apartments, Narainpura, Ahmedabad – 380 015.	92.	S. Matundat 21 Godavari Apartments, Alabnanda, New Delhi – 110 019.
81.	Meena Menon 303, Plot No. 19, Tarun Bharat, Chakala, Andheri (East) Bombay.	93.	Sunkta Singh A-106, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi – 110 024.
82.	Vimla R. B4/140 Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi – 110 029	94.	Vrinda 5/18 West Patel Nagar New Delhi – 110 008
83.	Prabha Krishnam C6/34 SDA, New Delhi – 110 016.	95.	Maithrayee Mukhopadhyaya 262, Jodhpur Park, Calcutta – 700 068
84.	K.S. Prasanna D-67, Golmohar Park, New Delhi – 110 049	96.	Susie Tharu CIEFL, Hyderabad – 500 007

97.	Vasanthi Kannabiran 128-E, Marredpalli, Secunderabad – 500 026 (A.P)	109.	Maithreyi Krishna Raj Research Centre for Women Studies, SNDT University, Bombay.
98.	Madhumita Pal J/1927 Chitteranjan Park, New Delhi – 110 019.	110.	Dr. (Mrs) S.L.Baruah Department of History Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh.
99.	V.Vasanthi Devi B-11, Vivekananda Nagar, Dindigul – Tamil Nadu.	111.	Sunita Shah Deptt. Of Rural Studies, South Gujarat University, Surat
100.	K.Ajitha Harithakan, May Day Road, P.O.Chevayur, Calicut – 673 017 (Kerala)	112.	Kalpana Shah Deptt. Of Rural Studies, South Gujarat University Surat.
101.	V.Rukmini Rao 60, New Rajdhani Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi – 110 092.	113.	Neera Desai Research Centre on Women's Studies, Bombay
102.	Nivedita Menon C-487, Sheikh Sarai Phase I, New Delhi – 110 001.	114.	Sreemati Chakrabarti B-371, C.R.Park New Delhi – 110 019.
103.	Jyothsana Uppal 246 FA Punchikuin Road, New Delhi 110 014.	115.	Vimla Balasubrahmaniya 605/1 Lancer Banads, Secundarabad-26
104.	Mrinalini Sinha American Institute of Indian Studies, D-176, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110 014.	116.	Mira Chatterjee 13A, Padma Prabhu Society Jyosar Park, Navayan Nagar Road, Paldi, Ahmedabad – 380 003
105.	Saswati Ghosh 578, P.M. Roy Road, Calcutta – 700 027	117.	Kamla Bhasin C/o FAO, 55 Max Muller Marg, New Delhi – 110 003
106.	Rita Monteiro 53 Rebello House 132, Hill Road, Bombay – 400 050.	118.	Ritu Menon Kali for Women, D-84 Panchsila Park New Delhi – 110 017.
107.	Burnad Fatima , N. Women Training Centre, Kauaru, Arkonam – 631 002.	119.	Manisha Chaudhary Kali for Women D-84 Panchsila Park New Delhi – 110 017.
108.	Shakuntala Bhattacharya DESM, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi.	120.	Suchitra Anant J-8, Lajpat Nagar 3 New Delhi – 110 007

21.	S.V.Ramni Rao Institute of Social Studies Trust 5, Deen Dayal Upadhya Marg, New Delhi – 110 002	132.	Padmini Swaminathan MIDS, 79 II Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Madras – 600 020
122.	Aruna Arora Indian Statistical Instt. 7 SJS Sansanwal Marg, New Delhi – 110 016.	133.	Leela Dube C4/113, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi – 110 016.
123.	Kavita Srivastava Instt. Of Development Studies B-118, Mangal Mark, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur – 302 015.	134.	K.Saradamani Indian Statistical Institute, 7 SJS Sansanwal Marg, New Delhi – 110 010.
124.	Mira Savare B-10, Sun-A-Sea, 25, J.P.Road, Andheri (10) Bombay – 400 061.	135.	Lucy M.Jacob C-75, Saarwarkar Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur – 302 004.
125.	Maitriyi Chatterjee 20/1A Old Ballygunj 2 nd Lane, Calcutta – 700 010.	136.	Sushila Kaushik 70 Dakshinapuram Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 067.
126.	Ruma Ray Rabindralaya 62, Sripur Road, Flat No.13, Calcutta – 700 078.	137.	Kanchan Mathur Instt.of Development Studies, B-118, Mangal Marg, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur – 302 015.
127.	Sukla Mitra 131/C Sarat Ghosh Garden Road Calcutta – 700 067	138.	Leena Parmar, 18 Teachers Hostel, University Campus, Jaipur – 302 004.
128.	Sujata Mody 31, Godavari Hostel, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110 067	139.	Sushila Jain Department of Sociology University of Rajasthan Jaipur – 302 004.
129.	Anjali Mody 31 Godavari Hostel Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110 067	140.	Devki Jain, 'Tharanga' 10 th Cross, Rajmahal Vilas Extension Bangalore – 560 080
130.	Shailaja Siva Subramanyam C-I/16, Humayun Road, New Delhi- 110 003.	141.	Sushma Sood Department of Sociology University of Rajasthan Jaipur – 302 004.
131.	Nirmala Sathe 5, Wilson House Dimayand Road, Colaba, Bombay – 400 005.		

IIIrd National Conference, 1986: Chandigarh
Opening Address by the Vice-President

Leela Dube

The formation of Indian Association for women's studies is truly an achievement. It has been able to bring together various groups, individuals from different professions and engaged in different activities and a variety of institutions and organisations.

This university has hosted several professional conferences and we are grateful that it has agreed to host our conference. At the same time, it will not be out of place to point out that our Association is different from other professional organisations in both composition and objectives. The participants here include not only academics and regular professionals but also social workers, activists, writers, lawyers, doctors, para medical personnel, political workers, grassroot workers, women struggling for their rights of grass roots level, persons working for women's welfare within the government, women working in the informal sectors and in various organisations. These are not exactly disparate categories. Not only that, many participants here combine in them several interests, activities and positions; all of us have one common concern: women's issues and gender relations and a firm commitment to change for the better. Thus, while Women's Studies has been accepted as a legitimate area of enquiry in the universities and research institutions, this association is not confined only to academic pursuit. Let me repeat: we are deeply committed to change, to using knowledge for action.

We have a realisation that in social sciences, language and common sense, understanding, there has been a strong androcentric bias. Women's contribution as actors in various fields throughout history and as subjects of social processes who constitute, reproduce and modify social systems defined by relations of power have been ignored; they have either been invisible or have had distorted visibility. Their voices remained silent or unheard. This studies focused on women (though not ignoring men) in various disciplines, evolution of earlier studies and taking up new researches with a new consciousness constitute an important objective for us. We also strive for incorporating new findings in the mainstream social sciences and other subjects. However, significance and urgency of issues and themes selected for investigation do not justify shoddy research, hastily planned and casually executed. Beware that in the scholarly world, Women's Studies is often viewed either with hostility or with contempt and condescension. We have to prove our worth and the seriousness of our endeavour. Objectivity for us is not value-neutrality. The choice of subjects is guided by the need for struggle and improvement of conditions, while in actual research bias has to be avoided and proper methods are tried to be followed. Even biases have to be known biases.

The nature of our field often demands interdisciplinary collaboration and co-operation. However, care has to be taken that in the absence of a firm grounding in one's own discipline the quality of work is not diluted. It is indeed a happy sign that we have persons who, while well equipped with the skills and knowledge of their own discipline are eager to listen to people from other disciplines and there are also examples of studies – projects – involving people from many

areas and disciplines. Further, efforts towards innovation of appropriate methodology have already begun.

To assume that being a woman automatically qualifies a woman to understand and capture the experiences of diverse groups of women is to practise self-deception and to resort to a kind of essentialism. We must realise our limitations and complex human diversity. A special effort is therefore required to develop understanding, empathy and insights. Further, it is alright to emphasise the study of problems of poor women, but is it enough? Some attention to middle class women (i.e. to one's own class) is equally important. Often, the conditions and nature of their limitations and disabilities and oppression remain unclear to them; their strategies are often based on notions of femininity and masculinity, ideal motherhood, and the lower worth of their own lives. There is an urgent need for consciousness-raising regarding gender disparities among both women (of all categories) and men.

For this reason, it becomes an issue as to whether women's studies should be strictly confined to women or should involve men also. Being a woman does not automatically qualify a woman to understand women's issues. And certainly gender issues are not only women's issues. At the same time, many of my colleagues strongly feel that care must be taken that with a distinct advantage of better opportunities for acquiring knowledge, skills and positions of status and power, men do not usurp the field or make it bereft of social concern which is the hallmark of Gender Studies. Another point that is made is about giving women who have a fetching voice opportunities to be vocal and express themselves without constraints.

A careful scrutiny of feminist writings from the west is called for. Blind acceptance must be avoided. There is some sense in emphasizing the importance and value of the involvement of indigenous researchers and local workers in women's issues and Gender Studies. Undoubtedly many subtle aspects of gender relations and contextuality of meaning are often difficult to grasp; so also categories of thought and nuances of behaviour. Here I may also emphasize the need for awareness of cultural diversity within our country linked to class, caste, community, region, rural-urban divide and so on. This applies to both academics and activists.

This brings me to an important, critical issue: prejudices harboured by activists and academics against one another. In point of fact, there needs to be no confrontation between the two. Women's collective action requires a sound understanding of social reality, of people, beliefs and the logic of their behaviour. Perhaps concerned academics can provide this knowledge and requisite information if they do not confine themselves to weaving theoretical webs. Activists value, role and contribution must not be minimised at any cost. Resistance and protest as well as constructive activity and consciousness raising without adequate grasp of social reality may result in taking faulty steps, faulty planning and action and may also result in incorrect post action analysis. Academics and activists can surely learn from one another. Rather than confrontation, co-operation should be our objective. And, we also have among us a number of persons and groups who combine research and activism. Another area for genuine co-operation or at times even merging is action research. Value of commonsense as well as genuine concern and capacity to mobilize and inspire women to action must not be undervalued. Let me repeat: resistance movements and remedial action both require a sound understanding of the culture in which the subjects are located. And this can come from both directions, academic, well-planned

studies and use of commonsense, direct contacts and observation, with a capacity to reach the people.

Those of us who had taken an initiative to establish the Indian Association for Women's Studies sincerely wish that the younger generation should now come forward and please keep in mind that take over. But we are still active, and will continue to work for pursuing the objectives of the Association.

Thank you.