



IFUWA Triennial Report

2007 - 2010

Over the past three years from August 2007 – June 2010, following the Study and Action Programme of IFUW, the **Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA)** has undertaken a number of meaningful and productive activities conducted by their local associations that make up the Indian Federation. There has been an effort to deal with contemporary social, educational and environmental issues that are affecting our sustainable development. Member's intellectual input and physical involvement helps IFUWA to fulfill their goal of serving society.

EDUCATION

Our Bangalore members are specially appreciated for having taken the responsibility of setting up a rural project at Lakshnipura, a village literally created by them. Members have built 60 houses, a school and a Community Hall. The Community Hall is being utilized by the Master of Social Welfare students for their study purposes. Giving due importance to the outreach programme, Bangalore members held discussions with housemaids and their lesser privileged relatives about methods to make women more independent and more aware of their rights and the support systems around them. Pune association members take active part in the management of their Kindergarten school, hobby classes and free coaching classes for girls from Municipal schools. Conversational English classes are conducted by Pune and Mumbai branches for school-going girls. On the occasion of Literacy Day, Calcutta, Dehradun and Nagpur associations organized book reading and school support programmes. To encourage and support girl students in the formal education system, a grant of Rs. 1,500/- was been made by the Calcutta association during 2009-2010 to Brahma Balika Sikshalaya Hostel Boarder's Welfare Fund for the purchase of text and reference books for the residential school girls of Class IX and X. A grant of Rs. 1,050/- was been given to the Children Welfare association to help build up their book bank for relevant text books.

To create a love for science, our associations have organized science exhibitions in secondary schools. The Bombay association has a Study Center which has completed 75 years. The main purpose of this center is to educate and make self-reliant those who are marginalized in society. Nagpur organized laboratory experiments of general science based on the curriculum of 5th – 7th standard. Free coaching classes and computer training has been undertaken by majority of the associations. Calcutta and Mumbai are doing a commendable work in training undergraduate women for housekeeping, child care and geriatric care. Girl children belonging to the primary and pre primary schools have classes on language, reading and special assistance classes to develop their numerical skills.

PROJECTS

Financial Literacy

Dehradun association gave due cognizance to the self supporting aspect of the girl child and conducted a detailed discussion on micro credit as a financial knowledge project. Pune undertook training in zardosi thread work on garments, warli painting and collage making. They were taught the skill of self financing the courses. Delhi and Bombay associations also organized projects on financial literacy and significance of vocational oriented courses. A minimum knowledge of banking, investment, loans nominees taxation structures were undertaken by the Nagpur and Delhi association. A workshop on Financial Literacy was organized by the Bombay association conducted in two parts. The first part dealt with budgeting, expenditure and investments, increasing income and reducing expenses. The second part was on insurance and its importance.

Health

Awareness programmes on Breast Cancer, AIDS, Thalassemia, arthritis, osteoporosis and dental care have been taken up through lecture demonstration given by eminent resource person. Indian Medical association held a discussion on the methods to check hemoglobin balance with nutritional diet. Resource person were also involved with guidance and counseling in relation to unwanted motherhood and pre marital sex. Mental health cases arising out of emotional disturbance and depression were also dealt with. Certificate course on Diabetes Education in partnership with a hospital was organized by the department of Home Science in Nagpur. Coonor, one of our associate members initiated a health project called 'Clinic for the poor' which provided medical help, nursing, dressings and nutritious food packets to the old, infant and infirm. For the benefit of life long health, Delhi undertook a seminar on 'Women's Nutrition through out her life cycle'. The Calcutta association organized a health talk on women and cardiovascular problems..

Education (National project) and Environment

IFUWA intends to take up a National Project on 'The Educational Policy as set down by the ministry of Human Resource, Government of India 2009 – 10 '.This will be a research based analytical study involving the students and the teachers who are the stakeholders of education. Validated questionnaire will be constructed for responses. The Ministry of Human Resource has been invited for constructive contribution. The Research and Development wing of Pune association will be an integral part of the project supervised by the IFUWA Project Convener. Delhi association undertook a major project on 'Awareness Generation for Urban Poor and Rural Women' with a view to study the lacunae that prohibits women in comprehensive development, the extent of illiteracy diagnosed and the subsequent recommendations needed to be devised to uplift their status. To generate awareness of the environment, action and initiative in rethinking, replacing, reducing, reusing and recycling materials to minimize waste generation and disposal is taken up as an advocacy project by majority associations. A number of associations undertook programmes and projects to cultivate the knowledge of reusing and

recycling items that disturb the ecological health of the environment. One such was a knowledge based programme on waste 'compostors' that can be used in any home or office where there is no space to dig and maintain compost pits. A great step ahead will be when UWA Bangalore hostels are equipped with compost pots or pits. The Delhi branch also participated in Waste Management Awareness Project. It is an action oriented project to bring about effective and sustainable waste reduction and waste management in residential localities of Delhi. They have focused on issue based trainings, workshops and action- oriented research studies. Community based projects in general and women & children related projects in particular. A training programme and workshop on Conflict Management in Organizations is also being planned during the year. Rain water harvesting, management of industrial waste and pollution of all forms are taken up as projects by the local associations. Thiruvananthapuram, our association in the south invited members from the Energy Conservation Team to generate awareness for the need to conserve energy. In Dehradun, the Environment Committee planted 100 saplings as a part of the Green Brigade. Pune association organized an essay and poster competition on Water Management in collaboration with the Kirloskar Industrial Group.

Bina Roy Partners in Development

IFUWA has embarked on their present BRPID project entitled "***Keys to Choose Learning and Meaningful Career Opportunities: Professional and Vocational Skills***" Seven local associations of IFUWA are participants of this project .The project has undertaken to train the teachers of those schools where girls are usually from middle and low income group. The training comprises of the skill to devise and conduct aptitude test of students using the Interest Inventory method and subsequently guide them in career counseling. Recent surveys conducted by the researchers revealed that there is need to counsel adolescent girls who are unaware of the multiple job opportunities that can be availed by them. It has also become evident that teachers require professional training in order to perform the dual task of teaching and counseling. A seminar and workshop programme is on the project agenda whose main task will be to introduce to the trainee teachers the knowledge skill and career options in those vocations which have primarily been accepted by society as male vocations. To mention a few, broad areas such as Aviation, Mass communications, Tours and Travels, Share Market, different courses in Information Technology, financial literacy were discussed and specific requirements and criteria fulfillment of these and other professions were explained to them. In these workshops, training is also provided to improve the skills, articulation and proficiency in English language deliberations which is the main language of communication.

SEMINAR (INTERNATIONAL)

Five members from Calcutta, Bangalore Bombay and Delhi participated in the 8th Triennial UWAsia Conference in Singapore in May 2009. Four members presented papers on the theme 'The Changing Face of Financial Empowerment of Women' Papers were on .Entrepreneurship and Micro – Credit financial strategies. An international seminar on 'Strategies for Women's Empowerment' held at Pondicherry University was attended by a member of the Calcutta association.

SEMINAR (NATIONAL) SEMINARS

Viewing Sustainable Development and Sustainable Existence as a issue of global concern and a thrust area of IFUW, Calcutta association organized a seminar on 'The Human Face of Sustainable Development' essentially dealt with the concern of value erosion of our children and their subsequent means of protection by the cultivation of value based education. Pune association organized a similar seminar on Comprehensive Sustainable Development as part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Research papers on biodiversity, ecotourism, global warming, and waste management were the trust areas of the Seminar. The Bina Roy Memorial seminar conducted by Delhi association was on 'Women's Empowerment through Financial Literacy' .The bank officials enlightened members on methods and means of financial growth and the schemes and laws in favor of women. Respecting the growing concern with old age, Bombay association organized a seminar on' Productive ageing which dealt with what Senior citizens can do' rather than highlighting 'what they cannot do'. To generate the understanding and meaning of Human Rights and to honor Human Rights Day, associations organized seminars conducted by eminent lawyers on different aspects of Human Rights and ascertain that Women's Rights are human rights. To understand the magnitude of female genocide as a global problem a seminar on 'Fighting Female Genocide in India' was held.

All associations of IFUWA recognize the need to uphold the tasks undertaken by the UN. Observations of UN days are done with seminars to highlight the role UN plays in the face of environmental. Ecological, Peace Movements, Gender issues, health with special reference to women.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Felicitation of eminent women from different walks of life especially those who are leaders in their own right has been the focus area of IWD in all the associations. The Altrusa International organization in Chennai spoke on the growth of Women' Voluntary Services. Discussion on Women and Empowerment strategies were taken up by most of the associations. Nagpur association had a panel discussion on: Gender / Research methodologies – Texts and Contents. Delhi association held a talk on 'Women's Empowerment through Self Employed Women'. The Vadodara association organized a symposium on 'Empowerment of women at the grass root level' Pune organized a street play competition on the empowerment of women.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Respecting the ideology of need cum merit, Scholarship of Rs. 6,000 is being given to a student of Computer Science at St. Thomas' College of Engineering & Technology, and Rs 2000.00 to a geography student of Sonarpur College to continue her third year studies. Candidates who are pursuing graduation and high school studies through Distance or correspondence also receive financial support from the associations. Candidates who are pursuing medicine / ophthalmology / management studies receive scholarships to help them complete their course. Added to these, IFUWA also selects candidates to help them with:

1. IFUW International Fellowship & Grants competition 2010-2011
2. Dr. Bina Roy Memorial Research Fellowship – announced once in each term
3. IFUWA Conference 2007 Scholarship (2008-2011) - announced once in each term

Bangalore association is supporting a candidate in electronics and Telecommunications with financial assistance. Dehradun supports 26 girls in graduate and post graduate degrees. The Pune association has provided scholarships to a Ph. D candidate who is pursuing in the area of Environmental pollutants, and another in the field of Environmental Science.

VGIF – IFUWA CONFERENCE

This friendly tour and conference was held in Kolkata on 18-20th November 2009 as part of celebration of the 40th Anniversary of VGIF. A seminar on 'Water, Women and Food Security' was organized for the same. The programme was held in the American Center, Kolkata with Ms Beth Payne, Consul General of USA rendering the welcome speech It was attended by Louise Croot, President IFUW, Eileen Menton President VGIF, Shirley Randell Vice President IFUW, Sushil Bhardwaj Vice President IFUW Prof Chitra Ghosh past president IFUW and a host of members and delegates from India and abroad.

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June - 2010*