

AIWEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2025

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Ms Asha Chandra

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ALL INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION



AIWEFA

Empowering Women



95
Years



- NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations
- Observer Status with the UNFCCC

Our Founders



95 years ago, a group of visionary women realised that the only route to Indian women's emancipation was through education. These visionaries were Lady Dorothy Irwin, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali and others. They could comprehend the vast difference and disparity between their lives and that of millions of Indian women who led subjugated lives. Education and employment were recognised as catalysts for empowerment and hence the ALL INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION (AIWEFA) was established in 1929, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1932 AIWEFA established the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, with an objective to inculcate a scientific temper in women's education.



AIWEFA has continued its advocacy of gender parity by presenting policy recommendations at the National and State levels. In recent years AIWEFA has encouraged information sharing among NGOs and has implemented projects at the grassroots level.

AIWEFA - NINA SIBAL MEMORIAL AWARD

AIWEFA - Nina Sibal Award for the differently abled is presented by AIWEFA every year, since 2003 to an organisation doing outstanding work for people with special needs.

The award was instituted in the name of (late) Shrimati Nina Sibal, Indian Foreign Service, wife of Shri Kapil Sibal, Senior Advocate & M.P. Rajya Sabha. The Award includes a prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, a trophy and a citation.



Dr Jitender Aggarwal, Founder CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust was awarded the 21st AIWEFA NINA SIBAL MEMORIAL AWARD

AIWEFA Picture Gallery



Lamp Lighting by Chief Guest, Smt. Sushma Seth at Conference "Ensuring Healthy Lives & Promoting Wellness in Old Age" at Lady Irwin College, New Delhi in November 2018



Release of Compendium "Khadi Goes Global" at National Event, New Delhi in February 2019



North East Expo & Fashion Walk held at LIC-2019



CSW67: A virtual event "A World We Women Want; Technology enabled social and economic advancement", March 2023



National Webinar Series, January-February 2022



Webinar No. 2 of National Webinar Series of 5 on SLD-Dyslexia, April 2022



Plantation drive in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the Aravali range, South Delhi. A joint project of AWC, AIWEFA & LIC

AIWEFA Highlights



TEAM AIWEFA

- AIWEFA hosts and organises seminars and workshops for networking at the International, National and Regional levels to draw attention to, and work out strategies for sustainable development and empowerment of women.
- AIWEFA provides a platform for an exchange of information and consultation between NGOs, civil society, the Government and the U.N. AIWEFA has been regularly represented by its executive committee members at the annual Commission on Status of Women consultations at the United Nations.
- The HRD Standing Committee, at the instance of AIWEFA, initiated consultations with NGOs on gender analysis of the Budget. Since then annual meetings are held to present the women's perspective on the budget.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committees have invited AIWEFA to make presentations on Micro-credit facilities to women's Self Help Groups and on the Child Marriage Bill.
- AIWEFA strengthened networking with the Global South Nations to document replicable and scaleable Sustainable Development Goals implementation practices and forming links with affirmative national policies.
- AIWEFA holds awareness workshops and seminars to strengthen the bonding between the old & young.

AIWEFA and United Nations

In May 1999, AIWEFA was granted ECOSOC status – NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. This has provided AIWEFA with an opportunity to generate and sustain international and national concerns through consultation, cooperation and coalition in the larger international arena of the United Nations. The last few years have witnessed a visible AIWEFA presence at international fora.



Release of compendium "A World We Women Want" at CSW60 at UN H.Qs. New York-2016



"Khadi Goes Global" at Side Event CSW63, UN HQs. New York in March 2019



AIWEFA team with Indian Ambassador to UN, His Excellency Mr. Syed Akbaruddin at CSW63, UN HQs. New York in March 2019



AIWEFA and other participants at Side Event, CSW63 at UN Hqs., New York-2019

United Nations NGO IRENE

In September 2003 AIWEFA accepted the role of Regional Coordinator for the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network (UN NGO IRENE) for India offered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Section of the United Nations. This consists of a network for communication and information exchange between national and regional NGOs in consultative status and the NGO Section/UNDESA.

UNFCCC

In 2017 AIWEFA was granted Observer Status with the UNFCCC and membership of the Women and Gender Constituency that provides organisations working on women's rights and gender justice, environmental protection, or both, to influence the annual conferences and shape the UNFCCC outcomes.

ACTIVITIES

Turning the pages of history, the activities etched as milestones include:

1929: All India Women's Education Fund Association was set up to advance the education of women by visionary women of that period and stalwarts of the freedom struggle.

1932: The Home Science College for Women, Lady Irwin College was established to inculcate a scientific temper and remodel women's education.

1952: Through the college, AIWEFA sought to guide and implement national policy decisions or sustainable education, in response to the Government's Community & Naaationalension programmes for all round rural development.

1995: From its preoccupation with the management and expansion of Lady Irwin College, AIWEFA shifted focus to **gender issues** and urgennt social actionequied for mainstreaming women in the development process. Members attended the fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing.

1996: AIWEFA held programmes on women's political participation with women **Panchayat leaders** from the North Indian states.

1998: SAARC regional conference 'Women on the March' on the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments for self-governance in rural and urban areas. Legal literacy programmes in Delhi schools.

1999: Granted **Special Consultative Status** by the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the **United Nations**.

1999-2001: Legal Awareness for women in 18 villages of Haryana with support from **Ford Foundation**.

2002-2003: Conferences and seminars on the role of Information Technology in achieving the **UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** with stakeholders, Government, private sector, NGOs and civil society. Computer awareness classes in NDMC/MCD primary schools on used computers donated by MTNL.

2002-2005: 'Village Adoption Project' in three Haryana villages, for holistic and suainable development including health, nutrition, sanitation, education, computer and skill training with support from Gas Authority of India (GAIL India).

2003: Annual AIWEFA - Nina Sibal Award instituted to honour organisations using innovative assistive technologies for people with disabilities. AIWEFA accepted the role of **Regional Coordinator** of the **United Nation's Informal Regional Network of NGOs (NGO IRENE)**.

2004: Parliamentary Standing Committee presentation on "Prevention of Child Marraige Bill, 2004".

2004-2005: 75th Foundation year celebrations with release of an NGO Directory (2nd edition); UN's Shadow Round Table Meet on gender equality; life-time achievement award to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak; Stree-Ratna Award; two-day seminar on the MDGs; exhibition cum workshop on "Role of science & technology towards reduction of drudery in farm and housework".

2006: 'Vegetable nursery-raising' in two Haryana villages included improvement in women's standard of living through inputs in health & nutrition; quality seeds; enhanced sowing practices; water and soil conservation; vermin compost; biogas units and net houses with assistance from **Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**.

2007-2010: Gender Resource Centre (GRC) set up in Geeta Colony for overall improvement and development of urban slums with convergence of various services of Delhi Government for the Below Poverty Line families.

2008: "Violence Against Women & HIV/AIDS" workshops with **UNIFEM** support.

2008-2011: "Agricultural Resource Centre" set up to upgrade and marry traditional knowledge with scientific technological innovations to reduce drudgery and empower 300 Haryana farm women with

support from **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

2009-2010: Representation at UN-NGO-IRENE, Asia Pacific at Beijing, China; **ECOSOC High Level Segment** meeting at Geneva; **UNFCCC conferences** at Paris, Bangkok and Copenhagen; **Convention on Sustainable Development (CSD)** at New York.

2012-2014: Nine Solar Fairs cum Training Workshops in Haryana villages and two National Seminars '**Solar & Green Energy**' in New Delhi, with **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** support. Six workshops on "**Cyber Security**" for Delhi Colleges and NGOs; Parenting workshop in Resident Welfare Association; Statistial Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for research students.

2014-2015: 85th Foundation Year celebrations included new opportunities or 400 underprivileged women trained in safe car driving by Maruti Suzuki India Limied; women cab drivers mobilised for **OLA**; **financial consultants** for **TATA AIA**; self-defence training to 150 women by **Delhi Police**; conference "**Transition of women from Education to Full Employment**" with **UNESCO support**; **XIII AIWEFA - Nina Sibal Award**; new technology access workshops for 5000 Delhi college students with support from Google and FES; healthy and sanitary environment advocacy led by Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, M.P.

2015-2017: "A World We Women Want (Aw4)" campaign, website and publications launched nationally and at the **60th and 61st Sessions of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW60 & CSW61)** at UN headquarters, New York, to map rich SDG implementation strategies from Africa and SAARC nations and "**Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work**". Youth workshops "**Promoting Intergenerational Bondi**" and "**Awareness & Prevention of Drug Addiction**". Artisan training "**Promotion & Development of Handicrafts from locally available resources**" with the Government of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Khadi & Village Industries Board.

2018-2020: Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary and AIWEFA's 90th Foundation Year celebrations with Conference "**Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellness in old age**" with support from NITI Aayog, National Institute of Social Defence and Help Age. Two-day North East Expo and Conference showcased the culture and spirit of the 8 states through panel discussions, meetings, art, culture with food, handlooms and handicrafts stalls with support from the North East Council. "**Khadi Goes Global**" national event with FICCI, FLO and internationally at the CSW64, New York, with MSME, KVIC, India's Permanent Mission and FDCI.

2020-2021: COVID 19 response included online videos and webinars "**Sustainable Solutions or Persons with Disabilities**"; Elder well-being; XVIII Nina Sibal Award ceremony; Permanent Mission's virtual side event at CSW65 "Violence against women" with a UNICEF supported film.

2021-2022: Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Lifestyle for the environment LIFE' in CSW66 virtual side event and film with support from India's Permanent Mission, New York; National Webinar Series of 5 webinars on "**Special learning disabilities**"; plantation of local species in Tughlakabad, Delhi; Research and recommendations "**Promotion of women's entrepreneurship**" CARE India's project was initiated; geriatric care giver training; Engagement with G20 during India's Presidency in 2023, organisation of XX AIWEFA- Nina Sibal Memorial Award ceremony in August 2022.

2022-23: CARE India Project on 'Research Analysis and Recommendations or Promotion of women's entrepreneurship' was successfully concluded in November 2022, with submission of report; Organisation of **CSW67** virtual side event and film on 9th March 2023 with support from India's Permanent Mission, New York; Workshops on 'Intergenerational Bonding' were held in five schools in Delhi NCR with support from NISD; Renovation of AIWEFA premises. XXI Nina Sibal Award Memorial ceremony in August 2023.

2023- onwards: Virtual side event was successfully held 14 March 2024, with the support from **PMI, New York**. **New life members** were added to AIWEFA.

