



Women's Manifesto

WOMEN'S MANIFESTO

A women's initiative for women empowerment and social welfare

Newsletter

Special Issue

Women's Leadership Summit 2017

witnessed a merging together of greater ideals relating to gender justice, equity and freedom. The speakers asserted the role of NGO's like Women's Manifesto in bringing about revolutionary changes at the grass-root level as it is at the microscopic domains where activists and volunteers addresses the issue of social class and caste. Realms of greater social justice by eliminating oppression and depravity could be only achieved through proper channelizing, smart leadership and a greater degree of human empathy and social sensitivity which could only be attained if men and women work hand-in-hand with a greater degree of comradeship and solidarity.



Dr. Neena Pandey, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

"There is a need for women's emancipation not only within a 'feministic' domain but with a wider humanistic paradigm. Women's access to public spaces is shrinking. This calls a need for a broader share of equity and freedom."

Dr. Sharnas Muthu, General Secretary, Women's Manifesto



"Empowerment should be knowledge oriented, should assert economy sufficiency and catalyze women's share in policy making. The aim of Women's Manifesto is the identification of 'indigenous' women leaders who strive at grass root level. This also is an act of solidarity where-in activists, academics and bureaucrats join hand-in-hand for gender and social equity"

Prof. Neera Agnimitra, Head of the Department, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

"Empowerment has emerged to be the buzz word of the time. It is increasing the options for women and enabling them to exercise these options. Real empowerment is breaking the chasm between theory and praxis. Our thought is against hegemony; against the manufactured gender discourses even at universities"



Swati Maliwal, Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Women



“The system is raping the victims. There is need for solidarity between the various systems of government machinery and need to be digitalized the police network and a special task force and accountability of bureaucratic framework so that atrocities against women could be dealt with more ease whereby aiding the victims and safety of women could be ensured in the capital.”

Shabnam Hashmi, Social Activist



“NGOs play a predominant role in the current scenario as they offer aid at grassroots levels. They have to assert and speak for freedom/ Aazadi as guaranteed and enshrined by the Constitution. There emerges a stringent need to politicize the NGOs. The issue of Triple Talaq was blown out of proportion and was misused for narrow political gains, as

per Islamic Jurisprudence was misrepresented in the public domain among secularists and feminists alike.”

Prof. Mansoor Ahmed IPS, Chairman, Human Welfare Foundation



“There is loophole in the rights to equality before law as women still don't have equal property rights in practice and also ingrained inequality which society is putting in the minds of young girls and women. Focus should be given to build up networking and sharing of information which help in combating these issues. Women should not ask men to give them

their rights they themselves become competent and should fight for their rights.”

Session II – Women Empowerment: Scope



Paper presentations and experience sharing session

Prof. Pamela Singla, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi



“If everybody who is able to make a social difference is a leader, then each woman could be called a leader. NGO's plays a pivotal role in challenging the stereotyped social order and gender roles. Institutionalized gender bias has to be

questioned and challenged through an amalgamation of works at the microscopic and macroscopic levels.”

Ira Singhal IAS: Topper of the UPSC's Civil Service Examination 2014

“I did not face problems because of my disability but of being a girl. People try to limit the choices for the girls which a girl, many times, is unable to acknowledge as it is put in her brains in a very subtle way either in the names of religion or societal norms. The perception of a girl about her is important as society looks at her through that image of hers.”



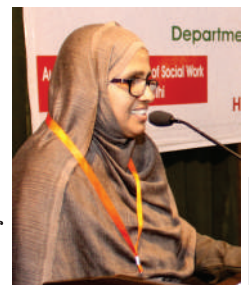
Jagmati Sangwan: Social Activist, Haryana



“Women empowerment starts when a woman starts thinking about the challenges which are facing because of her gender identity and stands to fight against it. Whatever schemes government has brought for the empowerment of the women, is actually not addressing the priorities of the women but it has been forced on them.”

A. Rahmathunnisa : People Foundation, Kerala

“Economic and entrepreneur domain has been hijacked by men wherein women are shrunked down as mere binaries through which male autonomy works over. What is needed is to make women folk mentally strong wherein they are able to break away the shackles of exploitative male chauvinism.”



Adv. Sneha Gill, Human Right Law Network, New Delhi



“Judiciary which is expected to be impersonal, impartial and transparent are often bound by subjectivity and chauvinism. This ends up as a hurdle and backlash for victimized women for whom the court is the last resort. These institutions fail to guarantee innate rights and justice to the women, especially from lower class and caste. This calls for a change in power politics- to subvert the hegemony of male judges and patriarchal courts.”

Session III: Women Empowerment: Concept and Reality



Experience sharing by the representatives of different organizations

Dr. Pushpanjali Jha, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

“Women should have the environment where they can take decision of their own; by improving social, economical, political and legal strength; women can claim their right confidently.”



Mariam Dhawale: General Secretary, AIDWA



“People should leave the tendency of seeing tribal or rural women as someone who is incapable of fighting for their rights because they are not literate or technologically advanced. The indigenous culture which people had in tribal areas is now slowly taken by the Brahminical culture which is a threat to the custom, and heritage of tribal culture in India.”

Rahima Khatun: Social Activist, West Bengal

“Economic independents has major role in women empowerment. Money gives them confidence to fight against all ordeals in their lives”.



Khalida Parveen: Activist, Hyderabad



“Women should enroll themselves in every sphere of decision making from home to the Parliament. Political empowerment is one major part of women empowerment. The irony of today's time is the educated people are the one who are behaving in uncultured manner.”

Session IV Valedictory



T. Arifali General Secretary, Human Welfare Foundation



“There is a need for the construction of a peaceful, productive and equal society for everyone. And also need of spreading and inculcating those morals where women also are seen as equals to that of the men and women empowerment should be a comprehensive concept and not be seen in its limited sense.”

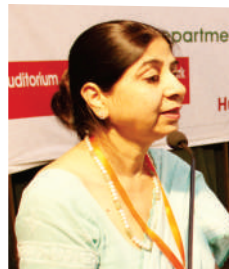
Prof. Roop Rekha Verma,

Former Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University

“Feminism is an age long fight for justice; it should not be equated to waging war against men. The concept of femininity under which we grow up is built within the imaginations of patriarchy so that most of the girls are unaware of the violence unleashed upon them from childhood till their death.”



Rasheda Hussain, IRS (Retd.)



“There is a greater need of solidarity among men and women to combat injustice and inequity. Empathy is an essential quality for an emerging leader as it requires a greater degree of sensitivity with the fellow beings and the goal has to set which are realistic and time bound.”

Prof. Sushma Batra, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

“Empowerment goes hand-in-hand with education. Here it lies the cardinality of education wherein children are able to open up themselves beyond narrow-minded domains.”



Women's Manifesto Award, 2016

Dr. Mitu Khurana for her bravery in protecting her twin daughters from the atrocities of in-laws.

Women's Manifesto Award 2016 is distributed to Dr. Mitu Khurana by Prof. Roop Rekha Verma, former Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University in the occasion of Women's Leadership Summit. Dr. Mitu Khurana the gutsy mother of twin daughters was the first woman in India to file a case under the Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act – the great legal tool which is supposed to protect the lives of our unborn daughters. She is a doctor, married into a family of doctors, and more importantly – a strong and determined woman who never gave up. She had said that in 2005 when she was under heavy sedation, her in-laws had got an illegal sex determination test done in a high-end clinic in Jaipur. She had proof that this was an unregistered clinic and that the crucial form of which records the woman's consent to have an ultrasound had gone missing. After her issue was highlighted by the media, more women have come forward and filed cases under the PCPNDT Act. She always wanted her daughters to grow up in a society where there is gender equality. Due to gallant and valiant efforts she has achieved the Heroes Award for outstanding individual effort serving the community and building nation for a better tomorrow, citizen journalism Award, 2010; Karamveer Puraskar in 2015; her name is also mentioned in the Limca Book of Records, 2010 for being the first women complainant under P.N.D.T.



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