



Regd. No. 438/94

**WOMEN'S INITIATIVES**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015-16**

WOMEN'S INITIATIVES (WINS)

**CONTACT DETAILS :**

Address for communication

6-8-938, NGO's COLONY, KT Road, TIRUPATI-517 507  
0877-2230607  
winsap1994@gmail.com  
rmeera102@gmail.com  
9849204711

Registered under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 vide No H.Qrs.No.I(33)/TPT/97-98 dated 07.04.1998. ITR-7 for the Assessment Year 2015-16 has been filed.

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PAN of Women's Initiatives (WINS) is AAATW0166F.

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Bankers :

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### **ALLIES WITH HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDERS**

In the name of crackingdown on red sander smuggling, twenty wood cutters near Tirupati were killed and Human Rights groupsand WINS investigated and declared that the act was more to settle state's Political equation. DIG held a workshop on societal role in protection of Red sanders, WINS raised questions on human rights concerns, but there were no answers, as is well known.

WINS supported Born to win program on "Transday" 28<sup>th</sup> April, famous Trans woman Activist Veena was awarded for her outstanding community work in Karnataka.

### **WINS EFFORTS IN ALLIANCE BUILDING WITH OTHER MOVEMENTS**

Regional consultation for Early child care and Education Policy is promoted by Indigenous groups' Activists, promoting mother tongue based multilingual learning for the benefit of their fellow beings living across India. WINS organized support for the event and staff participated in the event.

Balavikas Warangal invited WINS for a day long Interstate workshop on Empowerment of widows in Warangal, Telengana. it was a surprise that sexuality issues were pushed under the carpet and the discussions were mostly on a “moral highground”, we declined to join hands with them.



Regional consultation on Right to Education and New Education Policy meeting was documented by WINS and the shortcomings of children in marginalized communities were narrated to the Attendees. A follow up meeting held at Vijaywada, which was attended by WINS Program Manager

### LEGAL AND POLICY CRITIQUE - TRAFFICKING AND SEXWORK

This year in a bid to protect the rights of sex workers, a Supreme Court panel said that adults “participating with consent” in prostitution should not face criminal action or interference by the police, according to reports. This is a move in the right direction, making a clear distinction of Sexwork and Trafficking issues.

“Whenever there is a raid on a brothel, since voluntary sex work is not illegal and only running the brothel is unlawful, the sex workers should not be arrested or penalised or harassed or victimised,” a Supreme Court (APEX Court) panel member was quoted as saying. This is especially true as Anti Human Trafficking Units, routinely trample on the rights of sexworkers, in the garb of prosecuting the traffickers. They do not concede to the fact that some sexworkers would like to continue in the trade by their volition, while others may opt for rehabilitation.



The panel recommended deleting the offence of “soliciting” Under Section 8 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), 1956, in which sex workers cannot solicit or seduce and the same is punishable with six months' jail and a fine of Rs 500. It was set up in 2011 and is likely to submit its report next month.

Prostitution is still is neither legal nor illegal in India and the existing laws make sex workers vulnerable to police action.

It was also reported that the panel, headed by senior advocate Pradip Ghosh, is expected to come up with measures to rehabilitate sex workers who do not want to continue prostitution in order to help them live with dignity.

According to studies, a majority of sex workers in India are forced into the trade by poverty.

Asserting that women in sex trade enjoy an equal right to protection, the panel recommended that police should register complaints of sex workers and act as per the law.

It also suggests amending the law which has a provision of jail upto 10 years for persons above 18 living on the earnings of prostitution.

lunch being hosted by Mr. Michael Mullins, Consul General of the U. S. Consulate General in Hyderabad,

PRAGATHI, Chief functionary felicitated Girijyothy award in Tirupati, Girijan leaders highlighted the dignity issues and staff learnt the need to work on inter sectoral issues.

B.Anusha, final year Shastra University student interned with WINS on issues of women in sexwork.

Andhra Prabha On Womens' day published an article about Chief functionary and the work of WINS in Sunday magazine.

Society for Social Audit and Accountability and transparency (SSAAT) invited WINS to talk on Gender and Development with their field functionaries.



National Seminar on Gender, Science and Technology organized by Centre for extension and centre for Women's studies WINS presented a paper on

Karnataka State federation Against Atrocities on women Vijayapura invited WINS on International Women's day 8<sup>th</sup> march to speak on Devadasi and sexworkers issues.

Men and masculinity in south India , academic seminar was held on 21-22 march for AP, Telengana and Karnataka

#### **IDEX:**

Black day event and Community meetings against Sec377, could not be held in Chennai due to unprecedented floods, subsequently it was done after a gap of six months as a part of Chennai **PRIDE**.

July 28 Transgender Consultation was held under the aegis of Superintendent of Police. He promised a lot of sops for the community. He invited them to join "Community Policing" league, but it could be construed as deceit if members sit along side with the Police, as they are the very persons hurling violence, discrimination and abuse on a day to day basis.

Another significant point is that the transgender CBO leader in Tirupati is autocratic and authoritarian and it is unjust to promote such persons as community leaders, it is a missed opportunity for the Transgenders in tirupati.

Sent policy documents to Gulika, a research scholar at coloumbia University, about CBO formation and strengthening to support her writing.

**TRUST LAW:** THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION has given WINS an open invitation to use their resources as journalists and researchers, as we have been enlisted as a member in their network.

TG rally and event in Kozhikode, was a wellorganised program. People assembled in hundreds ,in a closed door meeting and spoke number of issues. A separate proceedings of the meeting is maintained

Coordination with NALSA, NCW byNNSW played a key role in making the community attend the meeting at the national level. The ground work of preparing women to discuss issues were done by us

Rural women’s rights and realities in the context of SDG- a paper was presented in a UGC sponsored National level seminar, it is a published work.

ORUKKAM a community convention, an annual festival of Malabar Cultural Forum, was attended by Sonu Niranjana, trans man, WINS community activist, of Kerala. He spoke about police atrocity in ORUKKAM a community convention, an annual festival of Malabar Cultural Forum, was attended by Sonu Niranjana, trans man, WINS community activist, of Kerala. He spoke about police atrocity in Ernakulam on transgenders, which was published in the Hindu. All CBO representatives assembled in ORUKKAM, were quickly took action and signed a Memorandum, mustered strength. WINS on their part sought letters of support and endorsement from allies and gave a representation to Human Rights commission condemning the incident..

Homage to gay martyrs, sent solidarity statements and slogans for the Orlando shooting at Gay Club.

The 3rd KisanSwarajSammelanwas held at a time when the agrarian distress in India is continuing unabated, worsened by two consecutive years of drought in many states. There are mighty forces working to take away land, seed and government support systems from small farmers and pave the way for corporate-controlled, chemical, mechanized agriculture. At the same time, we see a greater resolve and alliance-building among various farm movements, pushing back on anti-farmer measures such as the Land Acquisition Ordinance, and stronger momentum for ecologically sustainable agriculture resisting the Green revolution paradigm and corporatization. Public pressure is building on the governments to address farmer suicides and the ecological and economic crisis in agriculture.



The Sammelan focus was on Ecological Agriculture; Free Trade and Agricultural Livelihoods; Women Farmers’ Rights; Hazardous Agri-Technologies like Pesticides, Fertilisers and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs); Seed Sovereignty & Diversity; Land Rights; Economic Policies impacting Indian agriculture; Adivasi Agriculture, Climate Change, consumer support/empowerment etc. The sessions would mainly centre on current policies, laws and programs, what the alternative policy discourse

should be, ongoing work on these issues and advocacy agendas for future work. This may include discussions on grassroots level alternatives which need to be replicated.

### Women farmers status in AP

All over India, an overwhelming majority of female workers, especially rural workers, are engaged in agriculture in various capacities. At the national level, 65.1% of female workers are in Agriculture

sector (as compared to only 49.8% of male workers). Within agriculture, across crops and regions, empirical data from numerous micro-studies show that there are significantly more women-days that go into farming than men-days. However, women farmers remain invisible and unsupported, despite their disproportionately high contribution to Indian farming and food security. Further, only in 6% of rural Indian households do women own land. As per Agriculture Census 2010-11, the percentage share of female operational holdings in total operational land holdings is only 12.79% and the share in operated area is only 10.36%. In Andhra Pradesh too, an overwhelming majority of female workers (around 72%) are engaged in agriculture. In the state, female holdings constitute 28% (21,53,195 in numbers) and 24% (19,32,811 Ha) in extent. These data establishes the fact that Andhra Pradesh is one of the top states with the largest number of female operational landholdings as well as area operated by women.

Women farmer's Convention was unique in building solidarity amongst women farmers from various states, visibilising their contribution, and strengthening their identity as farmers; it was a platform for Learning from each others' experiences, struggles and strategies about ecological agriculture, securing rights to land, forest, water, seed and other commons, collective cultivation, seed and food banks and innovative institutions such as women farmer and producers cooperatives for collective production and marketing and collective management, etc; Researches also shared evidences (based on status papers, specific research, etc.) to raise relevant issues with concerned state and central government agencies and departments for strengthening/revisiting existing policies, programmes and budgets along with innovative ideas to benefit women farmers.