Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to present before you another issue of the Jagriti. There is a growing sense of momentum around education in the states. The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 have added an additional spur to take action and greater awareness on gender disparity. There is though a long way to go if the rights of all the children are to be realized.

Providing access to education is only part of a story. Once the children are enrolled and attending the quality of their education must make it a worthwhile experience.

The special needs of the girls in the social and cultural context calls for special measures. Among others reasons for girls not getting adequate education in the country is poverty which is the underlying cause of many obstacles faced by illiterate girls and women. Lack of food, water, sanitation facilities, schools at long distances and household-chores divided by gender mainly contribute to educational inequalities.

All the state affiliates are making efforts towards gender parity, equality and equity within the frame work of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The AIPTF feels that we can no longer neglect the education well being and intellectual advancement of half of the human race. The time is right to synergize our efforts, generate that extra push and include the excluded so that we can ensure gender equality in education for future generation.

The emerging trend of feminization of the teaching profession, particularly at the primary sector poses many challenges for the AIPTF as the participation of female teachers, especially young women teachers in the union does not reflect a very positive picture. It is vital for the state affiliates to address this challenge by taking special measures such as recruitment and organising campaigns to get this big force into the unions. The AIPTF is currently engaged in formulating the strategies to organize this young force.
International Women’s Day Celebration at AIPTF

The All India Primary Teachers Federation in collaboration with Akhil Delhi Prathamik Shikshak Sangh (ADPSS) celebrated International Women’s Day at Shikshak Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th March 2017.

The theme of the International Women’s Day was Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Mr Ram Pal Singh President AIPTF, Mr K.K Tripathy, Secretary General AIPTF, Mr R.C Dabas, Sr Vice President AIPTF graced the occasion. Besides more than one hundred women activists from all over the state participated. Mr Ram Pal Singh President AIPTF pitched for concrete steps to protect women as he observed that enactment of laws was not enough while speaking at the function on International Women’s Day.

He emphasized on a fundamental resetting of mental and moral make up as well as social conduct for a more protective environment for women in the country.

The International Women’s Day is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the security and welfare of women. Despite numerous legislations enacted to safeguard women there is much that still remains to be done. Legislation alone cannot emancipate our women said the President AIPTF.

Mr K.K Tripathy Secretary General AIPTF highlighted that violence against women is taking place at all social levels. Women’s Day is celebrated every year to focus women’s attention on the problems being faced by them. He further highlighted that there is an urgent need to deliberate upon ways and means to put an end to violence against women.

Mr R.C Dabas Sr Vice President AIPTF stressed on the need to empower women to fight for their rights and violence against them. He stressed that men and women should unite to put an end to violence against women and girls. Women alone may not be able to achieve the goals ending violence against women and girls.

Ms Sandhya Sharma Vice President ADPSS in her address said that we are facing various challenges at home as well at the working place in the various forms, may it be education, health, employment, dowry, legal rights, and reservation for women in Parliament and state legislature. She called all the unorganized groups of women, working women organizations, women teachers organization to come under a single umbrella and fight for their rights.

Ms Anita Nasheer Vice President ADPSS spoke on social issues and said that in spite of all attempts made by the union to bring more women it would take along time to achieve its goals.
Ushering in Gender Equality in State affiliates of AIPTF—
Reflections and Outcomes from JTF Programme in Four States

Preparing capable and influential leaders is the aim of All India Primary Teachers of India who can manage and administer the unions in efficiently. As we all know that women constitute almost fifty percent of members in the AIPTF and in this context, preparing capable women leaders is utmost important for us. Through John Thompson Fellowship Programme which aims to prepare capable young leaders who can take the rein of union in future was launched in AIPTF in support from Education International, Lärarförbundet, AEU, SNES and CTF. It was for the first time that Education International launched this programme in India to reach out to wider target group. The major aims of the programme were;

- Offering the opportunity to seek ways to strengthen the organisation/s
- Developing practical leadership and managerial skills.
- Developing strategic and action plans in line with the priorities of the organisations
- Exchange of information on unions from around the world.
- Raising awareness on the importance of quality public education, trade union rights, need for organising, human rights, child rights and gender equality

The programme aimed at bringing gender equality in the selection of participants and providing training to the selected young women who could take up the responsibility. The positive outcomes of the programme from the two states i.e. Haryana and Uttarakhand where Fellows who were trained are occupying the leadership positions for example-Uttarakhand has State Women Chairperson and Project Coordinator besides holding the position of Media Secretary in the state. It has such an impact that Haryana where women’s participation was almost negligible one of the young JTF Fellow has been nominated as the State Chairperson and she is performing her duties with a sense of responsibility. We are hopeful and confident that other women will prove their skills and come forward in their state to prove their worth.

**Contributed by Ms. Nisha Cairae, AIPTF**
Abolition of New Pension Scheme

AIPF is making efforts to improve the standard of education in public education system and on the other hand it is also working to improve the status of teachers and making all possible efforts to provide quality public education to all children in the country. It has been demanding that the Govt. of India solve the problems of teachers, remove the anomalies of VI Central Pay Commission and implement the VII Pay Commission throughout the country for all categories of teachers. It has also demanded that a National Commission for Elementary Education for grievance redosal of teachers.

AIPF endeavors continue among its state affiliates to sensitize its members with regards to restoration of old pension scheme. A memorandum of demands was submitted to the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, His Excellency the President of India, Hon’ble Finance Minister of India, Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, for negotiation and implementation to solve the problems. Till date AIPTF has not received any response from the Government of India and as such the AIPF has decided to stage a Dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on 5th October 2017 to express displeasure on pending demands and press the union Government to solve the same.

Paid 26 weeks Maternity Leave for Women

Passed by the Parliament of India – Welcome move by the Government of India

After the Women Day Celebration on the 8th March the women of India received a gift from the Government of India. The Lok Sabha passed on 9th March 2017, the Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill 2016 which inter alia includes increasing maternity benefit to women covered under the Maternity Benefit Act 1961 from 12 weeks to 26 weeks upto two surviving children in order to allow the mother to take care of the child during his/her most formative stage providing maternity benefit of 12 weeks to commissioning mother and adopting mother facilitating work from home to another with mutual consent of the employee and the employer making mandatory in respect of establishment having fifty or more employees, to have the facility of creche either individually or as a shared common facility within such distance as may be prescribed by laws and also to allow four visits to the creche by the woman daily including the interval for rest allowed to her and every establishment to intimate in writing and electronically to every women at the time of her initial appointment about the benefits available under the act.

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act Bill 2016 has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 11 August 2016. These changes will have impact on the health, well being and growth of the future generation in the country. It will have positive impact on women's participation in labour force and will improve the work life balance of the women workers. The Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Act will come into the force only after the President’s assent.
AIPTF Calls for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme

In the General Council meeting of AIPTF held on 30th January 2017 held at Ayodha in Uttar Pradesh the Action Committee of AIPTF has resolved that they would demand to the Government of India to scrap the New Pension scheme and would demand for restoration of the Old Pension scheme.

It also demanded that the anomalies of the VI Pay Commission should also be removed and on the principle of equal pay for equal work the recommendations of VII Pay Commission would also be implemented for the teachers including parateachers. AIPTF also calls for establishment of National Commission for Elementary Education and for fulfillment of their demands they decided that they would undertake the following programme for achieving their demands.

By 31st March 2017 all the districts office bearers will submit the memorandum to the concerned MLA ‘S and MP ‘S with their signatures on their letterheads and a copy of it would also be sent to the concerned state organization. The state organization are requested to send a copy of it to the AIPTF.

On 25th April 2017 the dharnas and agitations also would be organized at Block level and the memorandum will be submitted to Block Development Officer or the Block Education officer and the memorandum should also reach before the Honourable Chief Minister and Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable President of India and a copy of it will also be forwarded to AIPTF.

On 5th August 2017 all the districts would stage a dharna at district headquarters. After the dharna a memorandum would be presented to the district Magistrate and a copy of memorandum should also be submitted to the concerned Honourable Chief Minister, His Excellency the Governor, Honourable Prime Minister and President Of India. The copy of the memorandum submitted should also be sent to AIPTF.

On the occasion of teachers Day on 5th September 2017 for achievement of demands a dharna would be organized at the state headquarters and the memorandum submitted to the concerned Chief Minister and Honourable Governor of the state and they should be placed before the Honorable Prime Minister and President of India and a copy of it should be sent to the AIPTF.

On the occasion of the World Teachers Day on 5th October 2017 for fulfillment of the demands and to force the state government to fulfill their demands there would be demonstration by the AIPTF and its General Council at Jantar Mantar in which 5000 teachers would participate from all parts of the country and a memorandum enlisting demands would be submitted before the Honourable President, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister Government of India.

On 6th October 2017 meeting would be organised at Shikshak Bhawan New Delhi to decide on future course of action regarding the demands.

Please organize the demonstrations/dharnas as per the programme outlined above at the block, district and state level and try to get media coverage and publicity in the local newspapers and copy of it should also be sent to the AIPTF New Delhi.

AIPTF appeals and sincerely hope that all especially women teachers will energize efforts for achievement of the demands showing strength of our organization so that the Government of India accepts our demands and fulfills them.
Glimpses of Women Network Programme in the year 2016-17
Women’s day celebrations in State Affiliates of AIPTF

21वीं सदी की पुकार

ऐ भारत की नारी तू जागरी, तू जागरी
21वीं सदी तुझें पुकार रही, ललकार रही।
तुझे जिसे गोद में पाला,
धरती पे चलना सिखलाया
तन के बूंद बूंद रखतों से
जिसको अमृत पान कराया
आज उसी के असहयोग बदना ने
तुझको जीना दुःखार किया
ऐ भारत की नारी तू जागरी, तू जागरी
21वीं सदी तुझें पुकार रही, ललकार रही।
सदियों से पिसती आयी
तुमने सहती आयी
नारी बनने के कारण तू
उत्तरीcdn सहती आयी
हर यथा कथा को सहकर भी
सच को सच न तू कह पायी
ऐ भारत की नारी तू जागरी, तू जागरी
21वीं सदी तुझें पुकार रही, ललकार रही।
तेरे मन के अन्दर कितने
सपनों का संदर्भ भरा
दानव बन मानव ने उसको
हर दम चकमाचूर किया
तड़प तड़प कर जीती मरती
फिर भी न उसे इन्कार किया
ऐ भारत की नारी तू जागरी, तू जागरी
21वीं सदी तुझें पुकार रही, ललकार रही।
लेकिन अब फिर वक्त तुम्हें
जीवन जीने का आया है
21वीं सदी तुझें अपना
अधिकार दिलाने आया है
उठो जागो संघर्ष करो
ए.आई.पी.टी.एफ. ने बिगुल बजाया है।
ऐ भारत की नारी तू जागरी, तू जागरी
21वीं सदी तुझें पुकार रही, ललकार रही।

गीता वर्मा
बैयर पर्सन महिला नेटवर्क, बिहार
Erosion of Values

According to John Dewey, “the value means primarily prize, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate. It means the act of Cherishing something holding it and also the act of passing judgement upon the nature and amount of value as compared with others”.

Values are namely the ideals that men live for. They are intrinsic to our lives. They are the guiding principles of life, which are conducive to character formation of an individual.

However, in the present scenario, unfortunately the society is going through a crisis of values in our social as well as political life. The societies are witnessing a rapid degradation of values. The values of truth, honesty, integrity, selflessness and service to fellow human beings are vanishing from the society. The erosion of value in turn is leading to crime, violence, cruelty, greed and apathy to human sufferings. Today the media electronic and printed alike is overflowing with reports of crime, both physically, mentally, corruption and murders. These point to the fact that erosion of values has become grave concern for the society.

At this junction, values oriented education or value education is the need of hour. As education is much wider concept then mere teaching. It has for its aim to modify the nature and character of the educators.

In value oriented education the emphasis is laid on the development of rationality, at present most of the evils in society are the consequence of irrational thinking. Gautama Buddha said, “Believe nothing because you have been told, it because you yourself have imagined it, do not believe your teacher tells you merely out of respect for the teacher, but whatever after due examination and analysis, you find to be conducive to be good, the beneficial, the welfare of all beings, that doctrine believe in and closing to and takes it as your guide”.

The true essence of the value oriented education lies in the above quotation of Load Buddha. The complexity of modern life with its focus on materialism and affluence has resulted on the erosion of values. In the modern society, man has become narrow minded and self-centred. No one is interested in the welfare of each member of the society. Thus, the society is encountering the problems of corruption, rivalry, jealousy and so on.

To uproot the evils in the society, value education is essential. Value oriented education should aim of the development of proper attitudes, values, emotions, behavioural patterns and characters of the educator. Value oriented education can bring solace to the society which is being crippled by the cancerous effects the ever growing evils.

Contributed by Ms. Mitra Dutta, Sr. Vice President, AMPSTA
Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

The Indian Government adopted Transforming Our World: The agenda 2030 for Sustainable development at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 21st September 2015 together with all other governments in the world.

It is a universal agenda for sustainable development, ending poverty, and hunger ensuring quality education and health, gender equality and decent work for all, while protecting forests and oceans, and combating climate change.

In total there are 17 sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Goal4 specifies that all the participating countries would achieve quality secondary education for all by 2030. India is one of the signatories of the in the adoption of the said SDG. Achievement of quality Elementary Education for all is a pre requisite to the achievement of Quality Secondary Education by 2030. So there is a urgent need to remove the bottlenecks blocking achievement of elementary education for all.

The Goal 5 advocates for achieving Gender Equality and empower women and Girls. AIPTF and its state affiliates are advocating for the full implementation of Agenda 2030. AIPTF is committed to support the implementation by sharing our expertise and experiences from the classroom.

CTF Bursary Programme

Every year AIPTF is inviting all the states to send bursary applications for award of bursary to those girl students teachers who are undergoing teacher training after the completion of higher secondary/Graduation in any teacher training institute in India under the programme Bursary for Women in Education and have chosen teaching as a profession.

AIPTF in collaboration with Canadian Teachers Federation instituted Bursaries for Women in Education in India in the year 1996. The main objective of the programme is to support financially those members of the state affiliates of AIPTF who decide that their daughters should join the teaching profession.

The programme has been received very well by our members as the number of applications for the award of bursary is increasing on a continuous basis from year to year.

The Bursaries are awarded to candidates on the basis of their merit cum means i.e. achievement at their different level of education and financial status of the parents of the candidates.

The selected candidates are awarded a bursary of Rs 5000/- as an assistance to pursue their studies. The underlying reason is to encourage the student teachers to pursue the course in teacher education and to develop professionalism among teachers and to complete it successfully. This year AIPTF has awarded 52 bursaries to the student teachers.
Revamp the primary school system to ensure that all students acquire foundational skills for learning

There is a pervasive feeling that the implementation of Right to Education (RTE) has been tardy and student learning outcomes are abysmally low. The government school system seems to be in need of a thorough overhaul. While the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) made big strides in improving school infrastructure, teacher availability and school enrolment in the past decade, the quality of education is not showing any signs of improvement. There are no quick fixes for these challenges. It is important to work on the root causes that afflict the government school system. Here there are few priority areas of work that could help the government realize the dream of “education of equitable quality for all children.”

- Enhance the spending of education Government of India should allocate not less than 6% of GDP on education.

- Promote a strong focus on student learning. Instead of the culture of rote learning we need to aim at transformative change in the teaching practice where students should be actively engaged in understanding concepts and practicing skills. This requires a vision of change in classrooms.

- Invest in continuous teacher professional development: Teachers need high quality professional learning opportunities relevant to classroom teaching. In addition regular academic discussions and onsite support are crucial.

- Strengthen school administration and school monitoring to make it more responsive to the demands of RTE. This entails attention to issues of decentralization of school management, more supportive and regular school monitoring and encouraging educational administrators.

- Foster initiatives for strong school leadership. A strong school level leadership of the head master is very effective in improving school quality.

- At least one pre primary class as a part of every primary school. This will address the problem of underage children enrolling in class 1 and build foundational skills.

- Greater involvement of school management committees and parents in school affairs would foster local accountability.
• Put in place policies and system that ensure that teachers are posted to schools that need them. There is evidence that many new teachers being recruited through the SSA are not being placed in schools that have a shortage of teachers. This despite the clear norms of the RTE regarding teacher entitlement based on school enrolment. Despite recruitment of teachers in the past decade, about 10% of primary schools are still single teachers schools. Teacher placement and transfer policies need to be overhauled to ensure a rational placement of teachers.

• Probably the most important strong political commitment to the agenda of school reform and transparent accountable governance. Ministers and senior education administrators, have to support and follow evidence based and equity oriented processes for allocating resources to schools by curbing their inclination to use discretion and dole out favours.

Too many decades have passed without serious investment, attention and action towards systematic education reform. Ensuring that all students acquire foundational skills for learning, including literacy and numeracy is not only an absolute requirement of the 21st century it is also a fundamental right. Attending to these priorities would serve as crucial first steps in improving educational quality in schools.

Contributed by Ms. Sulabha Donde Chairperson NWC
ADPSS plans “School Wapasi” for Drop outs and Poor

Akhil Delhi Prathamik Shikshak Sangh (ADPSS) has planned to launch a pilot project “School Wapasi Abhiyan” to enroll drop out students or who have never visited schools due to poverty or other reasons.

The programme will be launched in the month of April 2017. During the month the ADPSS members will encourage parents of out of school children and dropout students to enroll them in nearby Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools. Despite RTE being in force large number of children never attended schools or left it midway without completing their school education said Mr R.C. Dabas General Secretary ADPSS.

Through School Wapasi Abhiyan we are trying to bring back these children to schools, he added. The programme would be carried out in all the zones of Delhi. The ADPPS has directed all its members to identify such children in their areas. Special attention may be given in the areas where children are being forced to work in hazardous establishments, if required they can also take the help of Childline 1098.

As a teacher their responsibilities also include bringing back these children in schools apart from holding protest against authorities for fulfillment of their demands.

The teachers would also coordinate with the local Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) and citizens to identify such children. After identifying these children the teachers would meet their parents and try to convince them to send their wards to schools. Teachers will explain the importance of education and inform the poor parents about several scholarships or facilities like freebooks, uniform and midday meal provided in schools, he said. All possible efforts may be done to enroll at minimum 30 out of school children or dropout students per school.

Appeal to our readers:

We appeal to our readers to send us your valuable suggestions, comments, news and views announcement about forthcoming activities, recent developments in your states regarding women, governmental policies affecting women and laws which protect or discriminate. We will be happy include them in our forthcoming issues, if found suitable.