International Women's Day

8th March 2011

Event report - Bangalore

Event organized by:

in cooperation with Paycheck India Project @ IIM- A, ITUC, UNI, and WageIndicator Foundation

Websites

http://www.paycheck.in

http://dfl.wageindicator.org

http://www.unitespro.org
International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events.

The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men.

However, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so the tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives.

Annually on 8 March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. A global web of rich and diverse local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, thetic performances, fashion parades and more.

International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies. Born at a time of great social turbulence and crisis, IWD inherited a tradition of protest and political activism. In the years before 1910, from the turn of the 20th century, women in industrially developing countries were entering paid work in some numbers. Their jobs were sex segregated, mainly in textiles, manufacturing and domestic services where conditions were wretched and wages worse than depressed.

On the eve of” International women’s Day” Prakruthi Abhiruddhi Seva Samsthe had organized an one day event at Indian Social Institute Bangalore. Decisions For Life also participated and distributed bookmarks and brochures to create awareness about what the project.
Prakruthi Abhiruddhi Seva Samsthe is also committed to gender equality, mother and child care, promoting formal and informal education, improving community health, women entrepreneurship and child rights and to promote sustainable development by integrating women and weaker sections of the society and also by being a liaison between government and the people at the grassroots to reduced global poverty and achieve Millennium Development goals.

Later, in the evening we also participated in a candle light march organised by Stree Jagruti Samiti (Women Awareness Forum) from the city town hall. Here women from all walks of life gathered to show solidarity for the Domestic workers who are fighting for their rights. DFL campaign member distributed bookmarks and brochures to a few women and invited them to participate in Decisions for Life campaign.