

## Memorandum of Understanding

### *Preamble*

The field of women's studies was defined in the 1980s as a 'critical perspective' that focused on women's lives and needed to be integrated into all disciplines. In the words of one of its pioneers, it emerged as "a rather nebulous idea that what was necessary was a transformation of structures, of ethos, of quality and behavior through the unity of scientific studies, mobilising action, and spreading awareness among the public, within educational, health and legal systems, among the media and the worlds of creative literature, science and technology." Speaking of the first Women's Studies Conference in India (1981), she added, 'it is this underlying idea that made participants feel that they were taking part in a movement and not just a conference - and led to the decision to form the Association for Women's Studies to maintain momentum.' (Vina Mazumdar [2000], Presidential Address, Xth National Conference, IAWS).

From such pioneering and largely voluntary beginnings women's studies has indeed come a long way. Following the inclusion of women's studies in the 1986 National Policy on Education, institutional support for the establishment of women's studies centres by the UGC has increased, and the number of centres has multiplied. Today there are 151 UGC supported women's studies centres in universities and colleges across 27 states in India, and another 12 have been sanctioned, bringing in 3 more states. Yet none of these centres are located in Jharkhand although the state saw some initial attempts some years ago. It is in such a context that new initiatives for stimulating quality women's studies research in and on Jharkhand, for bringing scholars and activists together on issues affecting women of the state, and greater interaction between the pan Indian women's studies community with Jharkhand based students, teachers, researchers and activists is called for. This collaboration between the Indian Association for Women's Studies and the Department of Economics, Ranchi University is thus a small step in that direction.

### *Memorandum of Understanding*

The Indian Association for Women's Studies, hereinafter referred to as the Association, and the University Department of Economics, Ranchi University, hereinafter referred to as the Department do hereby agree to jointly initiate a Jharkhand Women's Studies Project for providing orientation and support for students, teachers, and concerned citizens in the state of Jharkhand to engage with women's studies as an inter-disciplinary field of knowledge. The Jharkhand Women's Studies Project, hereinafter referred to as the Project will encourage and enable inter-disciplinary research related to women and gender relations with a focus on the state of Jharkhand. The duration of the Project will be of 15 months from August 2016 till November, 2017.

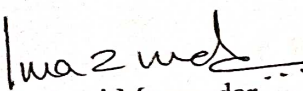
By this memorandum of understanding:

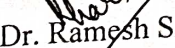
1. The Department agrees to provide a room/space/office for housing the Project. The Association agrees to defray the Project office expenses, comprising of furniture and

equipment, including 1 desktop computer, plus recurring establishment costs of not more than Rs 5,000 per month, for the duration of the Project.

2. A Project Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is to be constituted for the overall running of the Project. The Committee will plan and execute various activities comprising of documentation, organizing workshops, seminars, lectures, consultative dialogues, and orientation programmes. The Committee shall comprise of Dr. Ramesh Sharan, Dr. Ranjana Srivastava, and Dr. Madhumita Dasgupta of the Department, and Ritu Dewan, Indrani Mazumdar, and Indu Agnihotri, President, General Secretary, and Executive Committee member of the Association respectively. The Committee may invite a maximum of four faculty members from other social science departments as invitee members of the Committee.
3. The Association will also appoint a Jharkhand state co-ordinator for the development of women's studies, who, in consultation with the Committee, will be responsible for the day to day running of the Project office for 15 months, and will assist the Committee in implementing the activities of the Project. The state co-ordinator shall be appointed on contract with the Association, and not as an employee of the Department and hence the Service Rules of the Department/Ranchi University shall not be applicable.
4. During the course of the Project, the Association will provide one fellowship for a student registered for PhD in any department of Ranchi University, whose research is related to women's studies. The procedure for selection and award of the fellowship may be worked out by the Project Committee.
5. The running of the Project Office, award of fellowship, and management of expenditures and accounts will be undertaken according to procedures worked out by the Project Committee.

This Memorandum of Understanding is being executed on the basis of agreement that no financial support is being sought from or committed by the Department and the costs incurred by activities of the Project, including in organizing workshops, seminars, lectures, orientation programmes, promotion of research, etc. in women's studies, will be borne by the Association.

  
Indrani Mazumdar  
General Secretary,  
Indian Association for Women's Studies,  
25, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi -110001

  
Dr. Ramesh Sharan,  
Head of University Department  
of Economics, Ranchi University,  
Ranchi - 834008