

FROM SECRETARY TABLE

Time changes, season changes, everything changes in its due course. In this process of changing, the change of Leadership too is inevitable. In like manner a change has taken place in our Organization too. After serving for almost 15 years, our former Secretary Ms. Jayanti Keishing has retired, leaving behind many good examples as an able leader. Under her leadership many achievements and progress had taken place in Tangkhul Villages. We are grateful to her for the valuable contributions and services she had rendered for the society. Although she has retired, she will be always our mentor/consultant for this organization.

When I took over her place everything was new for me and found it very baffling. Some of the projects which had been taken up phased out. The only ongoing project when I joined is funded by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), India. Now we are working on a new project through CASA – The Churches Auxiliary for Social Action, New Delhi.

As a new hand in this field, I am facing many problems and challenges but with sincere effort and commitment and with the full support of my staffs, we are looking forward to achieve our goal with the community we are working with to bring changes and progress for a better society.

Ningthingla Ruivanao

Secretary AWID

Ukhrul

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

In the year 1987, Action of Women in development (AWID) was registered. It is a woman headed Organization, a non-profit, non-political society based in Ukhrul head quarter of Ukhrul District of Manipur. The District has about 240 villages spread over an area of 4,544 Sq.Km. and is dominated by the Tangkhul tribe. The district populace constitutes about 7.15% of the total population of the state i.e. 25,70,390 as per the census of 2011. AWID believes in need – based, rights – based, participation – based and developmental – based projects for the beneficiaries, communities women villages, with proper knowledge and supports by funding agencies and AWID works to enhance their lives to bring development no matter how small or bring change in the society. As most of the projects are funded for certain period, some of the previous year's projects had phased out, till this reporting period we had been able to carry out all the activities of the project in the financial year 2017-2018 March. During this period we have been taking up only one project."STRENGTHENING the role of women's collective in local governance and decision making in North East".

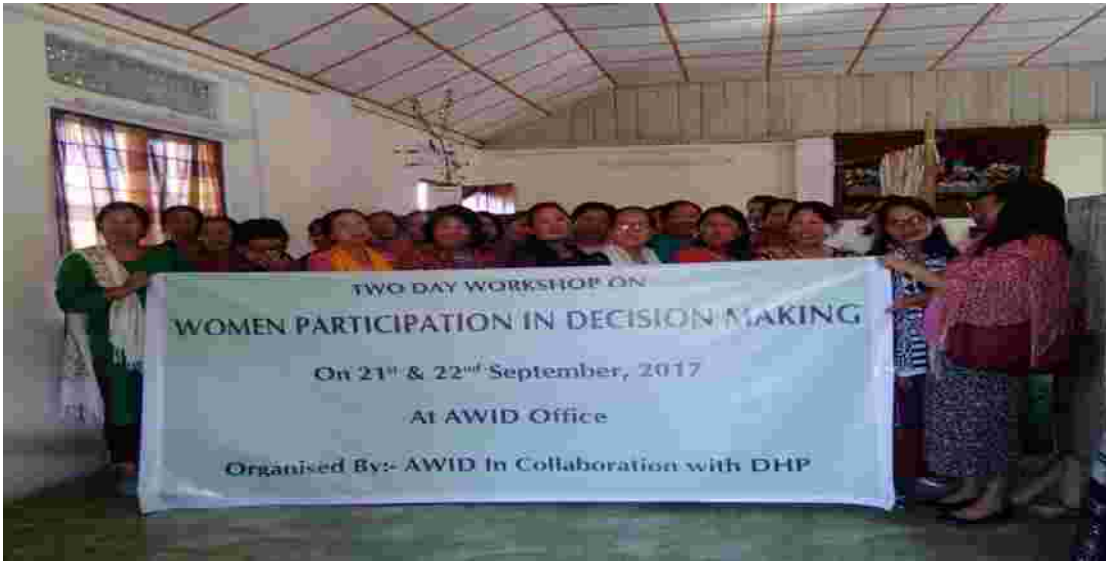
This project is supported by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) through Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) Churachandpur, Churachandpur District, Manipur. The fund received by us is meant for paying salary to program Coordinator and for conducting a series of Meetings and Consultations and monthly Interface meetings for different groups of people/organizations for achieving the set aims and objectives of the project given as follows:-

- Consultations and FGDs with existing women Elected representatives to effectively participate in decision making.
- Meetings/Interfaces with relevant government authorities, line departments and Village Apex Bodies.
- Consultations with CSOs and CBOs for women right's programme in PRIs/ADCs.
- Leadership training for aspiring women leaders, elected representatives.
- Leadership trainings, Personality development training training for understanding rights, entitlements and schemes related to women.

1. TWO DAYS WORKSHOP ON GENDER- WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

The workshop was organized on 21-22 September 2017 in collaboration with Development of Human Potential (DHP) to two different church based Women societies: (i) Phungyo Baptist Church Women Society – 24 participants and (ii) Union Baptist Church Women Society – 20 participants at AWID hall, facilitated by Ms. Jayanti Keishing and Ms. Ningthingla Ruivanao on the first day.

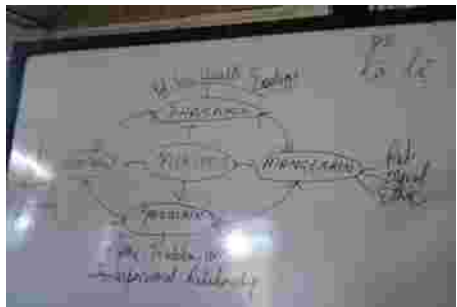
Day 1. The facilitator gave the concept of gender – that gender is a socially constructed rules and norms of man and woman in a given time and situation. Gender can be changed because it is manmade, division of labor and education should not be gender bias. Education rights and responsibilities should be given to both male and female equally. But due to patriarchal society with its old – age customs and traditions women are still considered as weaker sex who cannot be included in clans meeting and represent village Council. These practices hamper the progress and aspiration of women.



The session was followed by group discussion on whether the participants feel that there is gender discrimination in our society. If so, how do we bring changes about it. The groups found many gender inequalities starting right from the family, clan, village authority, civil organization and the Church. The groups felt that the change of attitude and mindset should first start from the family.

Day 2. On the second day Rev. Dr. Tamthing Ruivanao explained the 4 (four) dimensions of human beings. He said that unless a person grows equally, physically, mentally, spiritually and socially, development cannot be brought. To bring a change which is bound by certain customary practices takes time. But respecting and recognizing one's abilities and talents and giving the job to the right person irrespective of sex will surely bear fruits. Our outlook and attitude should not be confined within the four corners of our home. The participants were encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts on how to participate in the decision-making process at all levels. After the discussion some of the consolidated points are:

- Women should speak out more boldly about their issues
- Space should be given to share their issues and concerns
- To lobby with the concerned authorities to review the customary laws.



2. CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The prevailing discriminating traditional practices are the main drawback for the women to emerge and contest in the electoral processes. They know and feel the importance of participating in the local governance and decision making process. Hence in most of the discussions with different groups it is always felt that the main obstacle to our progress is due to the customs and traditions which discriminate women and for that women dare not step out of the box.

We have conducted Consultations and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with existing women elected representatives to effectively participate in decision making was organized 4 times within the year 2017-2018

- (i) 21st July 2017 with 27 participants
- (ii) 21st September 2017 with 25 participants
- (iii) 28th November 2017 with 28 participants
- (iv) 27th February 2018 with 20 participants facilitated by Ms. Anthingla Rv and Ms. Jayanti K respectively.

In all these discussions most of the common points consolidated are as follows:

- Women in general have been tremendously hindered by various social and political factors that keep them at bay in realizing their full potential and take active part in the socio-economic-political affairs.
- Although women are key players in economic activity and contributors, both in terms of labor and production there is inequality in wages.
- Non participation in decision making – either at domestic level or social level is another hindrance for women advancement.
- Family and society continue to be governed by tradition/community norms, customs and practices where women are kept outside of the decision making. This subsequently effects their participation at the political level.



3. INTERFACE WITH TRIBAL BODIES

One day Interface program was organized and conducted on 29th June 2017 at AWID Office with the objectives of:

- (i) To ensure participation women in decision making bodies
- (ii) To strengthen village, district and state governing structure to support the rights of the women
- (iii) To increase influence of CSOs and CBOs to engage/strengthen PRIs & ADCs from a women's rights perspective.

Total participants were 15 (5 males and 10 females).

Ms. Grace Shatsang, President Tangkhul Shanao Long facilitated the program and elaborated some of the objectives. She shared that the decision making starts from the family and women have been indirectly involved in decision making process by giving suggestions/advice to their husbands, who went and shared the ideas and accepted by his fellow council members. This way women are involved indirectly in bringing some changes, but the potential of women are never recognized openly. Patriarchal system is very strong and there is lack of motivation. The situation of women's participation in governance and decision making process and institution is minimal. Traditional institutions need to be reviewed and local self governing bodies need to put policies in place for equal participation.



Rev. Dr. Mathotmi Vasha, Executive secretary TBCA said that women are very active in every Churches. He encouraged women to move forward for a better society for there is no difference between man and woman in the sight of God. A time will come very soon to ordain women for effective ministry.

After the discussion some recommendations were given to improve the governing structure. They are:

- Strengthening church leaders.
- More workshop/training for women
- Remove or modify bad practices of customary laws.
- Tie up with like-minded organizations.
- Workshop on target groups (women & youth)
- Invite women to every public meeting.
- Church to give more spaces to women in all activities.
- Tangkhul Shanao long to organize workshops with stakeholders.
- Start gender equality from family.

4. LEADERSHIP TRAINING

This training was conducted on 28th February 2018 at AWID Office with 18 participants of Meizailung women society and Khararphung women society, facilitated by Ms. Ningthingla Ruivanao.

(a) A good leadership is needed and wanted everywhere by every society. The facilitator quoted, “A good leader knows the way, shows the way and leads the way”. The progress and development of the community or society greatly depends on the sincere and committed leader. As most of the participants are leaders in their own localities, they are asked to participate freely and speak out their opinions. They said that-



- They lack education and therefore need this kind of training for more information and knowledge.
- They work hard but their daily wages is lesser than man.
- Their daily chores are not considered as work.
- They can lead and organize meetings effectively, but they are not recognized.
- They have no voice in any developmental works or schemes.

With all the above findings they decided to encourage and support one another and want to groom good leaders.

(b). Rights, Entitlements and Schemes related to



women were organized on 28th March 2018 with 20 women participants from 2 women societies of – (i) Winotang and (ii) Mayorumtang. Dr. Ngahorshai Luithui conducted the training. Being a Veterinary doctor he gave many important information's related to women on livestock piggery, fowls etc. The participants were greatly benefitted.

5. CONSULTATION WITH VILLAGE APEX BODIES

Consultations with Village Apex Bodies of Ukhrul District namely TNL, TWL, TSL, HSL were organized and conducted on 11th August 2017 with 20 participants and 26th October 2017 with 22 participants, 14th December 2017 with 20 participants. During all these consultations expressed their supports and encouraged women to increase their representatives in local governance.

The dates and venue of each meetings and participants are given below:

Sl.No	Date	Venue	No. of participants		Total
			Male	Female	
1	21/06/2017	AWID Hall	4	11	15
2	22/06/2017	AWID Hall	-	15	15
3	27/06/2017	AWID Hall	3	11	14
4	29/06/2017	AWID Hall	5	10	15
5	10/08/2017	AWID Hall	2	13	15
6	21/08/2017	AWID Hall	-	21	21
7	23/08/2017	AWID Hall	-	15	15
8	21/09/2017	AWID Hall	5	20	25

9	19/10/2017	AWID Hall	-	12	12
10	28/1/2017	AWID Hall	5	23	28
11	25/01/2018	AWID Hall	-	20	20
12	28/02/2018	AWID Hall	-	20	20
13	8/03/2018	AWID Hall	-	15	15

6. SELF SUSTAINING PROGRAM

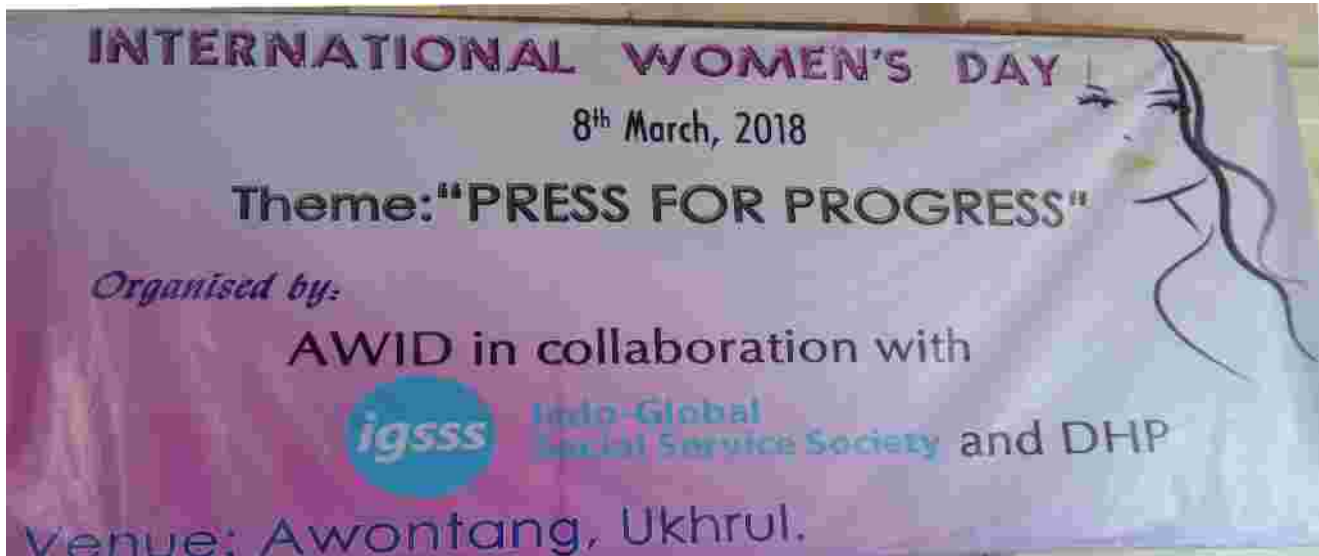
Fruit processing has been one of our main activities a our self – sustaining program. Locally available seasoned fruits like Plum, Peach, Pear, Goose-berry, wild-apple and Ginger are made Candies. During the peak season of the fruits, we give training to local women and girls. Through this program we can help some households to earn extra income for their livelihood. The training is given according to the season of the fruits. As most of the fruits are harvested in monsoon season and quickly perishable, we are facin a lot of problems because we do not have electrical drier but s depend on sunny days to dry the fruits as a result production cannot be increased. In spite of this, we continue this program because most of the available resources are found in plenty and unnecessarily wasted. With our processing methods these fruits can be preserved for longer shelf-life, and can be enjoyed during off season.

We sell these products to our regular customers and small shops in our town as well as in Imphal. We could also sell during District and State level exhibition cum sale events whenever conducted by the concerned organizations and departments. Our brand nam IRAM FOOD and slogan is “Taste the Different Taste”.

7. NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

We network with different District level NGOs for working together the common cause and issues. We also network with state level NGOs as well as regional and ational NGOs for working together the common issues. The main district level NGO partners are – TTA, PASDO, IGSSS Ukhrul Units, UDNRM, UDWIM etc.

State level NGOs are CASA, DHP, WinG Manipur, SLFM and WinG NE and WinG INDIA.



We celebrated International Women's day on 8th March 2018 based on the theme of "PRESS FOR PROGRESS" at Awontang Hall with about 200 participants. This program was sponsored by DHP and IGSSS and organized by AWID.

Mr. Dickson Kumrah, ADC Chairman Ukhul was the Chief Guest, Ms. Chonchon Vashum, Director UDWIM, Ukhul was the Speaker and Ms. Agnes Shaiza, President Hunphun Shanao Long was the Guest of Honor.

Ms. Jayanti Keishing, Chairman AWID addressed the keynote of International Women's Day.

Felicitation was given to Ms. Ngalayam Longpinao for securing 79.6% in 2017 COHSEM with letter marks in 3 subjects, followed by a special numbers from Ms. Yaimichon Kasomwoshi and Ms. Vita & group.

Ms. Chonchon Vashum appealed all the women to press for progress. She praised all the womenfolk for their creativity and skills on making traditional attire. Ms. Agnes Shaiza gave short speech on Socialization and equality of gender. And then vote of thanks was given by Ms. Ningthingla Ruivanao, Secretary AWID, followed by a candle light service which symbolized the commitment of each woman to move forward and bring a better society.

