



Feminist Approach to Technology

ANNUAL REPORT
2009

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FEMINIST

APPROACH

TO

TECHNOLOGY

(FAT)

2009 on perspective

Annual Report

Feminist Approach To Technology (FAT) is a pioneering organisation committed towards empowering women through technology. It was started in 2007 and was registered as not-for-profit body under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 of India in July 2008. This organisation for women, by women, believes in breaking the stereotype that women can't be adept in the sphere of technology. FAT aims to fill the chasm that lack of technical awareness in women has created in terms of their rights, access to resources, career choices and emancipation at large.

OUR MISSION

The mission of FAT is to empower women by enhancing women's awareness, interest and participation in technology. We work towards this by breaking societal stereotypes and attitudes, encouraging and enabling women to feel capable and comfortable in working with technology, and collaborating with other women's organizations to enhance their work by using technology.

WE BELIEVE

Women are as able as men to use and make any kind of technology efficiently. Women are crucial agents of social change. Technology

and social change are closely interlinked. Every society goes through a social change with the introduction of a new technology. For women to participate fully in this change, they should not be intimidated by technology. Technology is a great determinant of a society's materialistic development and in turn influences the standard of life hugely. The wheels of evolving technology are never going to stay still; so women have to catch up with it.

OUR STORIES

"After one day of clear and interesting discussions about the basics of websites, I felt like I had a foundation to start building a simple website for my NGO", said one of the participants who attended a workshop on Understanding how Websites work.

After attending a workshop, Narima, a 20-year old class X dropout, felt confident enough to start looking for a job. Within a few days, she found one as office caretaker in an NGO. She worked as administrative support and did a lot of basic computer work like typing, printing, copying, scanning, used the photocopying machine and handled telephone calls.

Likewise, Saraswathi, who has studied up to class XI and has a small child, had been working for nearly nine hours a day as a domestic help in many houses besides doing all the household chores for her own family. At the workshop the facilitator found her to be hard working and a fast learner; thus she achieved an office assistant's position in FAT and has been working since July 1st 2008.

"I was a bit reluctant to use computers. But this workshop has removed the inhibition in me", said another participant of the Internet-A Web 2.0 Workshop for Mothers, Ahmedabad.



our activities

ACTIVITIES OF FAT FROM INCEPTION (AUGUST 2007) TO JUNE 2009:

S.No:	Date	Activity	People Involved
1	November 4, 2007	Launch of the Techy-Women Mailing List	Gayatri
2	February 1, 2008	Understanding How Websites Work Workshop <i>New Delhi</i>	Gayatri
3	April 4, 2008	Organizing Resource Centers Workshop <i>New Delhi</i>	Gzetika, Gayatri
4	April 11, 2008	Introduction to Linux Workshop <i>New Delhi</i>	Hassath, Gayatri
5	April 15, 2008	Gayatri Buragohain receives Pass-it-on Grant from Systems	Gayatri
6	June 2-13, 2008	Introduction to Computers and Internet for Underprivileged Girls Workshop <i>New Delhi</i>	Gayatri, Hassath
7	March 8, 2009	Launch of www.wewit.in	Gayatri, Shweta, Lisa, Aarti
8	March 8, 2009	WeWIT Postcard Campaign with Jet Airways	Gayatri, Shweta, Aarti
9	March 25-27, 2009	Workshop on "Creating Effective Videos with Simple, easy-to-use Technologies" <i>New Delhi</i>	Aparna, Rita, Shilpi, Anjali, Gayatri, Shweta, Hassath
10	May 8, 2009	Launch of Joint Leap Technologies	Gayatri and Lisa

details of activities

1. The Techy-women Mailing List, November 2007

The number of women working in the field of technology is a really small. The Techy woman mailing list was created so that this small group of women could network and be able to give and take advice and support from each other. It was an effort to create a support system for women in the field of technology, not only for professional matters but also for personal matters. "I find networking to be a problem. I cannot hang out with male colleagues after work" was a comment all participants agreed with.

After successful launch and great conversations for initial few months, the interactions in the list slowly decreased, which later resulted in closing of the mailing list. However, some strong connections were made with some of the members and FAT connected to some of its initial volunteers through this list.

2. Understanding How Websites Work Workshop, New Delhi, 1st February 2008

Women working in the development sector and based in New Delhi, Lucknow and Vadodara attended this one-day workshop to learn about how websites work. They also learnt the different technicalities involved in development of a website. The participants got an overview of different website technologies and some tips to maintain their own organisation's website. There were a few hands-on sessions on using HTML editors, basics of HTML and some Content Management System's (CMS).

"My job requires me, among other things, to look after the website of my organisation. Initially it meant being at the mercy of the web designers for every little requirement. Not understanding the basics of Internet and being in awe of the jargon that surrounds it, made me shy away from tackling the situation head on. Till one day I was sent

for a FAT workshop on web designing and maintenance. I can say this much, the experience was like getting a perfect pair of prescription glasses after being myopic for a long time. Today, the cyber world suddenly appears a lot less intimidating!" - said Shahana Chaudhury, a participant.

3. Organising Resource Centres Workshop, New Delhi, 4th April 2008

Women working at different Resource Centres of non-profit organisations attended this one-day workshop and learnt about the most popular library management software, i.e., CDS/ISIS. Participants were also taught how to install WINISIS, create a database using WINISIS and GENISIS, some features of WINISIS and connecting the resource center to their organisation's websites.

"FAT provided a platform and space for people like us who are professionals working in the field but are blissfully unaware about a lot of technological developments, which directly affect our work. It's not just the lack of time but also the lack of the right spaces where we can enhance our learning. FAT provides us with that space to do so", Sameera commented, after attending the workshop.



details of activities

4. Introduction to Linux and Free/Open Source Software, New Delhi, 11th April 2008

FAT organised this workshop for non-technical women from the development sector. It was another one of FAT's workshop conducted by women for the interest of women. Introduction to Linux and Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) was conducted with the idea of giving the participants an overview of computer hardware. Hassath was the facilitator for the workshop and she gave the participants a general idea about Linux and enabled them to install a Linux distribution on machines. She also opened up a tower and explained how each part works.

A positive impact of the workshop was that two participants started using Ubuntu as their primary operating system. They went on to convince other colleagues to convert to Ubuntu.

5. Pass-It-On Grant from SYSTERS, 15th April 2008

Gayatri Buragohain was awarded the Systems Pass-It-On grant by Anita Borg Institute of Women and Technology, USA. With the \$ 1000 that she received, she bought a laptop, which she uses for her work in FAT.

6. Introducing Computers to Underprivileged Girls, New Delhi, 2nd to 13th June, 2008

FAT organised a workshop on introduction to computers for girls from the slum areas of Lajpat Nagar locality in New Delhi. There was an overwhelming response to the workshop and therefore, the participants were split into two batches: 10-15 year old girls for 2 hrs and the 16-20 year old girls for another two hours. The girls learnt how to

connect the different parts of the computer, how to open and run the different applications and how to shut it down. They learnt to use the Internet. Tips on on-line safety and security were discussed. The participants did projects on topics like 'dowry', 'teenage pregnancy', 'technical education for girls' for which they did research using the Internet and by speaking and discussing with their friends and family. They put together their findings in the form of a document with images; the document was printed out, and presented to the girls as a hard copy.



Three girls who had attended this workshop got jobs in different organisations. By the end of the workshop, the participants were convinced that they need not limit themselves to household chores and home based occupations. They can all learn to use computers and seek better employment.

7. Launch of We, Women in Technology (www.wewit.in), 8th March 2009

To provide a platform to women in science & technology in India, a website (www.wewit.in) was launched on the International Women's Day. The aim of the website was to create a database of such women and document their valuable contributions to science and technology.

details of activities

8. WeWIT Postcard campaign with Jet Airways, 8th March 2008

To mark the launch of the WeWIT website, 5,000 postcards about the campaign were distributed amongst the passengers of all Jet Airways flights flying out of Delhi, Mumbai and Madras on the International women's Day, 2009. Another 5000 cards were distributed in community spaces like markets and malls.

9. Workshop on 'Creating Effective Videos with simple easy-to-use Technologies', New Delhi, 25th to 27th March 2009

In this workshop women from the development sector learnt the art and craft of filming, editing and producing videos. Sixteen women from different parts of India, including one from Nepal, shot live footage at the very lively Chandni Chowk, New Delhi. Rita Banerji of Dusty Foot Productions and Aparna Sanyal of Mixed Media Productions led participants in hands-on activities in camera work and editing. The editing was done on Windows MovieMaker and Linux based Kino. Established film editors showed the participants how the more professional Final Cut Pro Software is used.

Swati, from Ektara, Jharkhand, not only learnt to use her office handycam during the workshop but she also went on to train her colleagues on how to use it. They are now shooting and editing

videos on their own for their organisation.

10. Launch of Joint Leap Technologies, 8th May 2009

Funding has always been a challenge for non-profit organisations. Setup with the aim of doing a certain kind of activities, non-profits end up spending a lot of time and energy in seeking funds. For finding a way around this problem, FAT went in for an experiment. With the technical expertise at its command, the networking and goodwill in the non-profit sector, team members of FAT started a for-profit consulting entity and named it Joint Leap Technologies (JLT). It is a web development and social media company, which provides affordable and dependable technical services to other non-profits and donates the majority of its profits to FAT.

This unique and new funding model was launched with a great deal of fanfare on May 8, 2009. It became possible only because of a donation received from a well-wisher, who does not wish to be named. Many prominent leaders from different non profits and other organisations had attended, notable among them was Syeda Hamid, member Planning Commission. Gurinder Kaur (chairperson, FAT), Gayatri Buragohain (founder, FAT and co-founder, JLT) and Lisa Hodges (co-founder, JLT) all spoke on the relationship between Joint Leap Technologies and Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT) and the significance of this funding model.



our collaborations

S.No.	Date	Activity	Partner Organization
1	May 24-25, 2008	The Internet & Web 2.0 Workshop for Mothers	Zeal Education, <i>Ahmedabad, Gujrat</i>
2	June 16-19, 2008	Introduction to Web Design Workshop	Muskaan Center, <i>Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh</i>
3	December 22-24, 2008	Training on Website Baker	Centre for Health and Social Justice, <i>New Delhi</i>
4	January 20, 2009	An introduction to FAT with various NGOs	Rastriya Gramæen Vikas Nidhi, <i>Guwahati, Assam</i>

details of collaborations

1. The Internet & Web 2.0 workshop for Mothers, Ahmedabad, 24th to 25th May 2008

Most mothers, whether they are homemakers or working women, do not feel comfortable when their husbands or their children talk about the computer or the Internet. Most mothers are unable to find the time to learn from them and become computer savvy or explore the Internet, which is a great resource for anybody everywhere. Their self-esteem suffers. A two-day workshop was organised by FAT and Zeal Education, Ahmedabad, for mothers to introduce them to the Internet and motivate them to use it. There were nine participants who attended.

Many mothers have written back to thank us for the workshop. "The whole workshop experience has made me confident about the Internet and other facilities. Earlier, I used to feel left out of computer related discussions and I used to avoid them but now, I know I can talk about it. Thank you for all your co-operation", said Sunita Mendiratta, a homemaker.

2. Workshop on "Introduction to Website Designing" for Girls of Muskaan Centre, Bhopal, MP, 16th to 19th June 2008

This four-day workshop was conducted for girls in the age group of 16-20 years staying at the Muskaan Centre (a hostel for girls run by an NGO) in Bhopal. These girls were from the gondi tribe of Madhya Pradesh whose main occupation is rag picking. These girls had a basic knowledge of computers, some skills on desktop publishing, photo editing and surfing the Internet. They were keen to learn website designing so that they could work on a website for Muskaan. FAT conducted this workshop and introduced them to the basic concepts of designing a website. A basic HTML website was made and the girls were introduced to websites, servers, domain names, hosting html coding and using web-authoring tools. The girls used their photo-editing skills to create banners and icons for the website. The girls designed the Muskaan website themselves which can be viewed at www.muskaan.org.

details of collaborations

3. Training on Website Baker Workshop, New Delhi, 22nd to 24th December, 2008

Three participants from Sahayog, one from LEDEG (Ladakh Ecological Development Group), five from CHSJ (Centre for Health and Social Justice), all women, were trained on creating a website from the scratch using Website Baker (an open source content management software). It was a three-day workshop which not only trained the participants to maintain their website, but also create a new website using free design templates available on the Internet.

The participant from LEDEG went back and built her organisation's website with minimal support from us. She has now been maintaining the site on her own. The participants from Sahayog have been updating and maintaining their websites while the participants from CHSJ have built a new website in house, with minimal help from web consultants.

4. An Introduction to FAT with various NGOs at RGVN office, 20th January 2009

Rashtriya Grameen Vikas Nidhi (RGVN), Guwahati, organised a meeting of all their partner organisations with FAT where the crucial role that technology plays in the process of development was discussed. Twelve representatives from various local NGOs participated in the meeting and FAT got a chance to talk about its activities.



our participations

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH FAT MEMBERS PARTICIPATED:

Date	Activity	People	Notes
Jan 19, 2008	NRHM database training, <i>Population Foundation of India (PFI), New Delhi</i>	Gayatri, Babul	One-day training for representatives of NGO's involved in the community monitoring of NRHM across the country on how to feed data into the database and maintain the site.
Jan 29, 2008	Group Discussion on Open Source, <i>PFI , India, New Delhi</i>	Gayatri, Hassath, Babul	This discussion was held for the staff of the Population Foundation of India. FAT team gave presentations on Linux and Content Management Systems.
July, 2008	Introduction to Linux for <i>TARSHI, New Delhi.</i>	Gayatri, Hassath	Gayatri and Hassath held discussions with TARSHI management about Linux, answering queries and doubts. Hassath installed a Linux distribution on one of their machines for them to experiment with.
Feb 15, 2009	Digital Storytelling Presentation, <i>Youth Parliament Festival , New Delhi</i>	Aparna, Gayatri, Hassath, Shweta	A 2 hour presentation and demonstration on Digital Storytelling for the participants at the festival
March 4, 2009	Vigyan Prasar (Dept. of Science and Technology) Education SAT Panel Discussion, <i>New Delhi</i>	Gayatri	Gayatri made a presentation on technology for Self Help Groups (SHGs) around the country. Participants from around the country joined in through video conferencing.

our participations

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH FAT MEMBERS PARTICIPATED:

Date	Activity	People	Notes
March 27-28 2009	"New Forms of Violence Against Women" Conference Trivandrum, Kerala	Gayatri and Lisa	This conference, organized by Jagori and Sakhi discussed the various ways technology is being used to harm women and to explore possible ways to prevent it. Gayatri spoke on how participation of women in the shaping of ICT tools, presence of women in decision making positions in technology regulation, and general awareness of every women on technologies that effect her life is the way forward.
June 13, 2009	Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace Conclave New Delhi	Gayatri	A consultation organized by the Manipur Women Gun Survivor's Network in collaboration with India International Centre. Gayatri was invited to speak on "Empowering women of NE India through Technology for Peace". She spoke mostly about how ICTs can be used as an effective tool for information flow and for the empowerment of North East women for peace.

our team

Gayatri Buragohain, Executive Director (Volunteer)

Gayatri founded Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT) in 2007 in the belief that effective women empowerment comes through technology education. FAT combines her extensive technological background with her passion for women's empowerment. Her technical experience includes several years in website development in the private sector as well as with CREA, a nonprofit dedicated to women's human rights. In 2008, she was awarded the prestigious Anita Borg Institute's "Systers Pass it On" Award for her work with FAT. She is also a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Grace Hoppers Celebration, 2009. Gayatri has a B.E. in Electronics and Telecommunications from Assam Engineering College.

Hassath (Volunteer)

Hassath has always enjoyed learning new things and working in different areas, and her career reflects that. She has worked with the publishing industry and video film-making, and then moved to the development sector, where she has spent most of her professional life. She has been managing the Information Systems at Aman Trust for the past four years. She has also been responsible for training the staff at Aman to use Linux productively. Hassath has also organised workshops to introduce non-technical users from the development sector to Linux.

Lisa Hodges (Volunteer)

Lisa began her career at Chicago Gateway Green, a well-established environmental nonprofit. There, she wore several hats, including working as the organization's techie as well as directing marketing and sponsorship for the launch of TREEcago, a large-scale urban canopy renewal program in collaboration with the City of Chicago.

After that two-year run, Lisa is eschewing stable employment and sponsored health insurance to become a freelance consultant internationally. She graduated from the University of Chicago in 2006 with a BA in Mathematics.

Shweta Shukla (Staff Member)

Shweta graduated from Lady Shri Ram College in Mathematics stream in the year 2008. The three years of honours gave her prospect to extensively work for an assortment of public outreach activities in organizations working towards the upliftment of the less privileged ones such as NAZ Foundation (work towards the AIDS awareness), Indian Cancer Society, UDAAN and Muskaan (work for mentally Challenged Kids), Institute for Blinds, Prajna Foundation and others. She was awarded the 'Principal's Prize' for 'Selfless Service to the College Community' (2008) at Lady Shri Ram College.

Saraswathi (Staff Member)

Saraswathi joined FAT after attending the 10 day workshop on basic computer skills organized by FAT. During the course of a year with FAT, she has learnt most of the office maintenance work and basic computer tasks. She manages the office front desk and supports the rest of the team in various administrative tasks.

our board

Aleyamma Vijayan

Aleyamma Vijayan is a social activist working with women and marginalised communities since 1978. She initiated SAKHI resource center for women in Kerala, in 1996 with the help of Mac Arthur foundation fellowship she received. She is presently the Director of Sakhi. She has written a number of books and research papers, to name a few, "Women and society", "Blooming Buds" (Life skill training manual for adolescents), a Gender Training Manual (all in Malayalam) and a series called "Women in Fisheries" which she co authored with Nalini Nayak (in English). She has been a community organiser and coordinator of Programme for Community Organisation, the co-founder of Self Employed Women's association (SEWA- Kerala), Country co-ordinator of International Collective in support of Fish workers, and State Convenor of Kerala Streevedi (a network of women's groups in Kerala) besides being an active member of committees of various organisations.

Dr. K. Lalita

Dr. K. Lalita is the co-founder of the ThinkSoft group. She is well known as co-author and editor of classics in women's studies, such as "We were making History", "Women Writing in India from 600 BC to the 20th Century", and "Taking Charge of our bodies". She was founder-president of India's first women's activist group, the Progressive Organisation of Women, and founder-coordinator and currently the Vice-President of the well-known Anveshi Research Centre of Women's Studies. She works on issues of gender, women's health and education.

Dr. Monisha Behal

Dr. Monisha Behal is the founder and working president of Northeast Network, a women's organization working in the north east region of

India, and member secretary of Foundation for Social Transformation, a grant making organisation based in Guwahati, Assam. Dr Behal, a social activist actively working in the field for the last 34 years, has a deep interest in women's issues. She has undertaken extensive work in the northeast region in capacity building of smaller NGOs. She undertakes training and education of NGOs in the areas of women's health, crafts production, communication and accounts. She was awarded the ANANYA AWARD for Women Achiever of the Year, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in March 2007.

Gayatri Buragohain (Ex-officio)

Look in the team page.

Gurinder Kaur

Gurinder Kaur is a trained development professional working in the field of social philanthropy for more than thirty years. In the past, she has held many reputable positions including CEO at Udyogini, Country Director at World Education Inc. and Regional Representative, South Asia at Oxfam America. She was the first Executive Officer at Oxfam India. Presently she is the Advisor at Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, New Delhi. She has been actively involved in many organisations as a board member and is the chairperson of Feminist Approach to Technology. She has contributed in the form of various research papers, reports and publications and has participated actively in community work, teaching and training as well as fieldwork.

our board

Rambishnu Sasmal

Rambishnu Sasmal is working with CREA as a Finance Manager. He holds Masters degrees in Commerce and in Business Administration with specialization in Finance. He also holds a Diploma in Financial Accounting System (DFAS). He has 7 years of work experience and specializes in financial management in the development sector.

Rita Banerji

Rita Banerji is a filmmaker and heads Dusty Foot Productions, a Delhi based film production house producing television programs and documentaries. One of the key focus areas of Dusty Foot is wildlife and environment. Rita herself has been part of several award-winning films over the last 15 years including two Panda (Green Oscar) winning films at Wildscreen Festival, UK. Rita also freelances as a cameraperson and has shot for a diverse range of films and television programs.

Simrita Gopal Singh

Simrita Gopal Singh is a professionally trained sociologist and has been active in the Indian women's movement. Along with five other feminists from Pune, she set up Aalochana Centre for Documentation and Research on Women in 1989. This was to meet the growing need for information on women felt by social and women activists. Today, Aalochana is one of India's well-recognized women's resource, research and training centre. Besides being an active member of many women's groups, Simrita has been managing Aalochana since 2000 (and also between 1990 and 1994) as the coordinator and also is a core group member Muskaan the campaign against Child Sexual abuse.

Samhita Barooah

Samhita Barooah has been involved in development work in the North East Region of India for the last 4 years. Presently she is associated with North East Network (NEN). She is always open to learn new advances in technology and enjoy travelling.

balance sheet 2009

FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH, 2009

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CAPITAL FUND	3,046.00	FIXED ASSET	
Addition during the year		As per schedule attached	3,046.00
GENERAL FUND			
Op. Balance	-----	CURRENT ASSET , LOAN & ADV..	-----
Add: Excess of Income			
Over expenditure	<u>54,313.00</u>		
Current Liabilities & Provisions		CASH & BANK BALANCES	
Sundry creditors	11,000.00	Cash at Bank	60,655.00
		Cash-in-Hand	1,053.00
		Tds Receivable	<u>3,605.00</u>
			65,313.00
TOTAL -----(Rs.)	68,359.00	TOTAL -----(Rs.)	68,359.00

FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31st MARCH, 2009

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Local conveyance	5,943.00	Contribution for Project	110,000.00
Office Exp	3,481.00	Membership Fees Receipts	350.00
Postage & Courier	2,801.00	Donation Receipts	106,001.00
Printing & Stationery	9,945.00	Bank Interest	<u>286.00</u>
Honorarium	50,000.00		<u>216,637.00</u>
Documentation	38,000.00		
Workshop/Seminar/Meeting	47,803.00		
Computer & Accessories	4,351.00		
	162,324.00		
Excess Income Over Expenditure	54,313.00		
Total----- (Rs.)	216,637.00	Total----- (Rs.)	216,637.00



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This is the first annual report of FAT. It covers all activities from its inception in August 2007 to completion of 1st year of registration in July 2009.