

ENGENDERING TECHNOLOGY

FAT 

Feminist Approach to Technology

**ANNUAL REPORT
2010-2011**

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Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT) is a not-for-profit organization based in New Delhi, India and founded on the belief that the space of technology, technological research and enquiry needs to be occupied by both men as well as women to allow for women's development in society. It offers a gendered critique of technology and technological design so as to ensure that women are not left behind in their choices of livelihood and empowerment.
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CONTENTS

01 TECH CENTER PROJECT

07 STRATEGY
DEVELOPMENT

03 PARTNERSHIPS

08 THE TEAM IT WAS

04 PUBLICATIONS

10 THE WAY FORWARD

05 OUTREACH AND
ADVOCACY EFFORTS

12 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

TECH CENTER PROJECT

01

FAT continued its fund-raising campaign for starting a Technical Education Center for underprivileged girls in Lajpat Nagar area of New Delhi. A short film on the target community was made by FAT volunteers and this film was used to solicit donations for the Center. Some individual donations came in, with several people hearing about the Center through an extended network of well-wishers. Intel Incorporation donated

two computers to the Center, and the Systems Pass-it-On Grant received by FAT Executive Director Gayatri Buragohain was utilised to buy another desktop. After the hard work of preparing for more than a year, in July 2010 the Center was inaugurated in a rented space. The first batch of girls came from the local Tamil working class community, who had dropped out of school and were working as domestic workers in the area. Several volunteers came and took different sessions with the girls. The initial classes consisted of basic operations on the computers, introduction to basic computer hardware, gender discussions, introduction to theatre etc. We struggled with the girls' illiteracy and some other challenges because of their health and working conditions. On the other hand, we managed to build a rapport





with them and came to know details about their economic difficulties and social conditions.

We received notification of our first institutional funding in December 2010, which helped stabilise our efforts in this direction.

In late January 2011, we held a Consultation on our work with the Technical Center

with some individuals and organizations working with Delhi youth. Following this, we took the decision to conduct an internal evaluation and to take feedback from the participants of the Technical Center, in order to revisit our experience and devise ways and means of getting better results for our efforts.

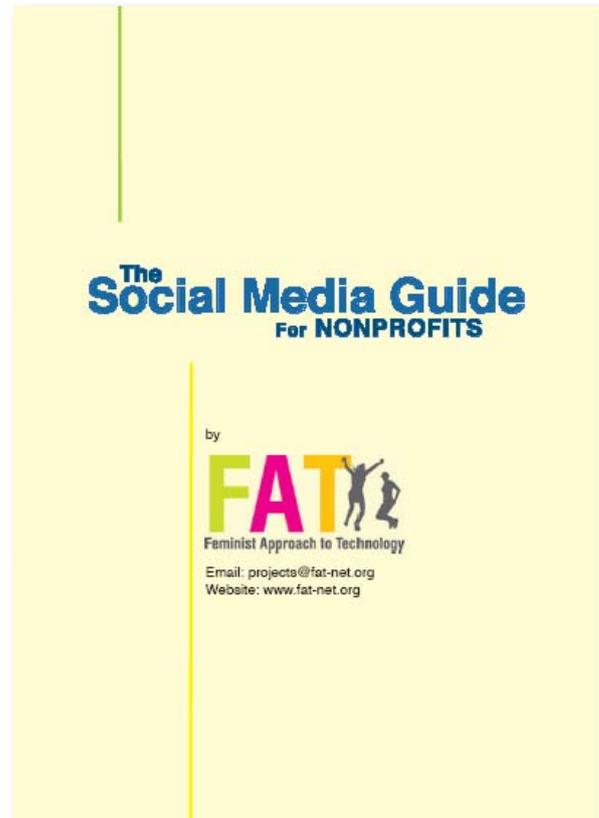
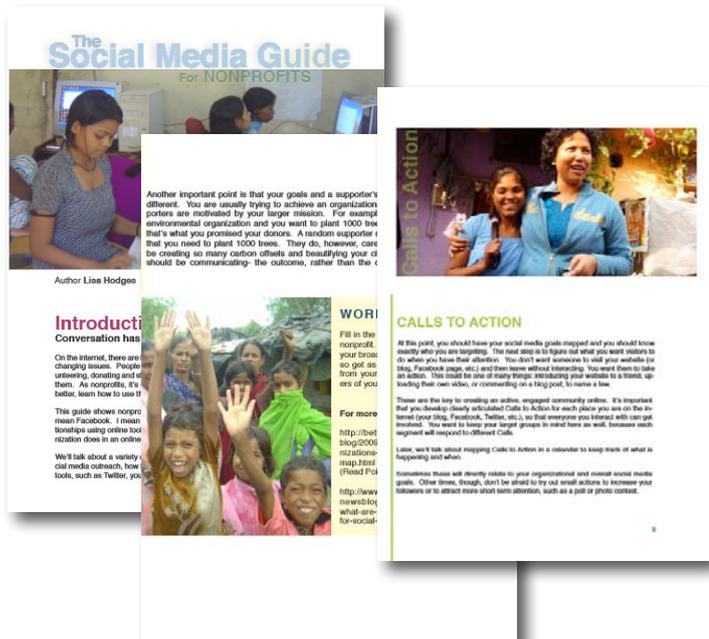
FAT partnered with Commutiny- the Youth Collective (CYC - <http://www.commutiny.in>) on Must Bol (<http://www.mustbol.in>), a campaign hosted by CYC to call young people to examine violence in their lives and speak out against it. FAT's Executive Director, Gayatri Buragohain, was a member of the advisory board. FAT helped them to design and evolve a strategy for the on-line aspect of the campaign. FAT trained the campaigners on effective use of social media to further the campaign. FAT also facilitated one of the discussions on gender in a Delhi University college.

cial emphasis on the use of social media and also on how to deal with the problem of intermittent access to Internet in the North East of India. FAT also conducted trainings for the staff of the North East Network on managing their website and on creating content for it.

Workshops with our Partners

FAT conducted a workshop in Guwahati, Assam for the Foundation for Social Transformation and its partners on Information and Communication Technology for development. There was spe-

In November 2010, FAT released a social media guide for non-profits (<http://www.fat-net.org/content/announcing-social-media-guide-non-profits>). It is a comprehensive guide for non-profit organizations teaching how to use online tools to further their campaign or cause, how to raise funds for an initiative and how to mobilize a community using simple and freely available online tools. It is available in our website for free download. More than 250 people from 42 different countries have downloaded the guide so far.



OUTREACH & ADVOCACY EFFORTS

05

The Founder-Executive Director of FAT, Gayatri Buragohain, has been invited to speak at many conferences and consultations organized by other NGOs from time to time. This year she spoke at “Masculinities and Effective Communications for Gender Justice” organized by Partners for Prevention on September 22, 2010, and the “Fourth Consultative Conclave on North East India Women Initiative for Peace”, organized by Control Arms Foundation of India, on 19th and 20th January 2011. On both occasions she spoke about technology as a powerful tool for activism and development.

Gayatri had been invited to join the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)’s India Council in December 2009



and also appointed as India Ambassador for ACM-W, the Women’s Council of ACM. As a part of this organization, she was invited to give a talk at the Amrita ACM-W Celebration of Women in Computing in Coimbatore in September 2010, and Women’s Day Celebration at Vivekananda College of Engineering for Women in Namakkal District



OUTREACH & ADVOCACY EFFORTS

06

in March 2011. She used the opportunity to advocate for more women in technical fields amongst corporate bodies and academic institutions. She also attended the Grace Hopper Conference India in Bangalore in December 2010, and ACM's Annual Event in Hyderabad in January 2011.

Representatives of FAT attended the workshop on "Role of the Internet in Fostering Freedom of Expression and Strengthening Activism in

India" organized by the Centre for Internet and Society, and the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Research Meeting (Gender-based Violence and Masculinities Research Project, Partners for Prevention) in Bangkok.

Gayatri also attended the Grace Hopper Conference held at Atlanta, USA in September 2010. She presented her own and another team member's papers at the panel "Women in Computing in India: Experiences with Boundaries". At the same event, she received the Anita Borg Change Agents award. She also made a presentation on FAT's vision and work, which was highly appreciated by the audience.



At our internal evaluation, we realised that we needed to reorganize and focus our efforts. We decided to invite an external facilitator to help us define FAT's one-year vision more clearly and to evolve a suitable strategy to fulfil our goals. We had a very intense and successful brainstorming session with the entire team coming up with ideas and opinions about FAT's aims and area of work. We also discussed the possible programmes that FAT could work towards, given the limited resources it has. As a result of this session, a FAT team member drew up a three-year programme strategy paper, with detailed budgets and workplans for different projects under various programmes. Some of the programmes

and projects we identified and discussed were Research, Documentation and Communication, the Adolescent Schoolgirls Programme, WeWIT (We Women In Technology), Consultations with Feminist Organizations, and the Technical Center Project.

THE TEAM IT WAS

The year 2010-2011 was also a busy time for the hiring of team members. In January 2011, we were finally able to hire full-time staff. The Founder and Executive Director, Gayatri Buragohain, became a full-time employee after having volunteered her time for three years. We also hired a new office assistant-cum-community worker as well as a Technical Center Manager. A Communications Manager was also appointed. Apart from these, as always, FAT was helped out by various interns and volunteers. Lisa Hodges from the United States of America had been volunteering with FAT from March 2009. She conducted one of the FAT WWW (Workshops for Women by Women) workshops, helped in writing

the social media guide, in raising funds for the Technical Center and also contributed her skills towards the making of the short film on the girls of the Technical Center. We bid her a fond farewell in May 2010. Zandra Karlsson from Finland interned for six months with us from November 2009, looking for possible institutional funders and writing proposals and submitting them to some of the donors. Her work helped us in getting



THE TEAM IT WAS

our first institutional funding. She finished her term with us in April 2010. Other interns were Dagmara Pawinska and Dobromila Walczak from Poland, Shushu Zhang from China, and Megha Agarwal from USA. During this year, the people who volunteered their time for FAT were Meskerm Getachew from Ethiopia, Katrin Schutz and Carmen Heinrich from Germany, Shilpi Sharma, Anthony Thottungal, Noor Zaheer, Hassath and Kuber.



FAT has many plans for the future- some of them growing out of our current projects, and some new initiatives. Having received some organisational funding, FAT was able to hire a full team and do more consistent work than previous years. We intend to continue looking for funds so as to be able to sustain the work which we have begun, as well as expand it.

After our internal evaluation meeting, we have decided to do some restructuring of our Technical Center Project. We intend to obtain some feedback from the first batch of girls about the Center and then do some restructuring to give a better experience to the next batch. We also intend to publicise our experience with the Center in order to raise more support.

From our brainstorming session, one of the important points which emerged was the need for some sound research on the status of women in technology in India. The lack of such research handicaps FAT's work as it becomes more difficult to justify the need for work that FAT wants to do. Hard facts and figures to illustrate the current situation of women in technology in India will go a long way towards helping us push our work ahead. We plan to put in proposals to generate



funds for this activity, and also explore the possibility of partnering with research organizations to pursue this research.

We also feel the need to collaborate with other feminist organizations and collectives in order to discover what their thoughts and experiences are with regard to women and technology. FAT needs to work towards addressing the neglect of women and technology as an issue in the gender discourse. FAT plans to hold consultations in different parts of the country with local women's organizations and collectives in order to discuss the issue with them and to plan interventions and programmes with them. We are planning for these consultations to lead to a national conference on the topic in a year or two.

As always, FAT's team is full of ideas and enthusiasm about doing many things. We are constantly in the process of prioritizing our activities and finding methods of completing them to our satisfaction. The team at FAT looks forward to another exciting and fulfilling year.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI BALANCE SHEET 2010-2011

LIABILITIES		AMOUNT	ASSETS		AMOUNT
CAPITAL FUND - Op. Bal.		----	FIXED ASSETS		
Addition -	54,475.00		Computer & Acce. - Purch.	51,100.00	
Less : Depreciation	15,499.00	38,976.00	Less : Dep.	15,330.00	35,770.00
			Furniture & Fix. - Purchased	3,375.00	
			Less : Dep.	169.00	3,206.00
GENERAL FUND			CURRENT ASSETS		
Op. Bal. As On 01.04.2010	----		Cash - in - hand	137.00	
Add : Excess of Income Over			With Standard Chartered Bank	97,361.65	97,498.65
Expenditure	63,823.65	63,823.65			
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROV.					
Sundry Creditors		33,675.00			
TOTAL.....(RS.)		136,474.65	TOTAL.....(RS.)		136,474.65

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR 2010-2011

RECEIPTS		AMOUNT	PAYMENTS		AMOUNT
Op. Balance - As on 01.04.2010		----	1. Global Fund For Women - Cost		
			Personnel	173,786.00	
Grant-In-Aid			Programme Cost	52,042.00	
Received during the year from :-			Admin Overheads	51,153.35	276,981.35
1. Global Fund For Women - Cost	95,280.00		2. Open Meadows Foundation		
2. Open Meadows Foundation	75,361.00	470,641.00	Honorarium	61,000.00	
			Teaching Centre	3,138.00	
			Admin Overhead	11,223.00	75,361.00
Sundry Creditors		33,675.00			
			Equipment Cost		54,475.00
			CLOSING BALANCE		
			With Standard Chartered Bank-Fc	97,361.65	
			Cash-in-hand	137.00	97,498.65
TOTAL.....(RS.)		504,316.00	TOTAL.....(RS.)		504,316.00

NON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI BALANCE SHEET 2010-2011

LIABILITIES		AMOUNT	ASSETS		AMOUNT
CAPITAL FUND - Op. Bal.		39,369.00	FIXED ASSETS		
Addition -	76,275.00		Computer & Acce. - Op. Bal.	39,369.00	
Less : Dep.	52,200.00	63,444.00	Addition	72,900.00	
			Less : Dep.	52,031.00	60,238.00
			Furniture & Fix. - Purchased	3,375.00	
			Less : Dep.	169.00	3,206.00
GENERAL FUND			CURRENT ASSETS		
Op. Bal. As On 01.04.2009	1,03,943.00		Programme Advance	22,605.00	
Less : Excess of Expenditure			Cash - in - hand	1,045.00	
Over Income	11,419.35	92,523.65	With ICICI Bank A/C	5,187.00	
			With Standard Chartered Bank	97,361.65	126,198.65
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROV.					
Sundry Crediors		33,675.00			
TOTAL.....(RS.)		189,642.65	TOTAL.....(RS.)		189,642.65

NON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2010-2011

EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT	INCOME		AMOUNT
1. Global Fund For Women - Cost			Grant-In-Aid		
Personnel	73,786.00		Received during the year from :-		
Programme Cost	52,042.00		1. Global Fund For Women - Cost	395,280.00	
Admin Overheads	51,153.35	276,981.35	2. Open Meadows Foundation	75,361.00	470,641.00
			Donation & Contribution		
2. Open Meadows Foundation					
Honorarium	61,000.00		Misc. Receipts		
Teaching Centre	3,138.00				
Admin Overhead	11,223.00	75,361.00	Bank Interest		
Equipment Cost		54,475.00	Excess of Expenditure Over Income		
Society Account					
Salary	91,903.00				
Documentation & Stationery	13,537.00				
Office Rent		61,750.00			
Travel & Conveyance	3,739.00				
Audit Fee	10,000.00				
Bank Charges	110.00				
Admin. Overheads	55,885.00				
Equipments Purchased	21,800.00	258,724.00			
TOTAL.....(RS.)		665,541.35	TOTAL.....(RS.)		665,541.35