# ENGENDERING TECHNOLOGY
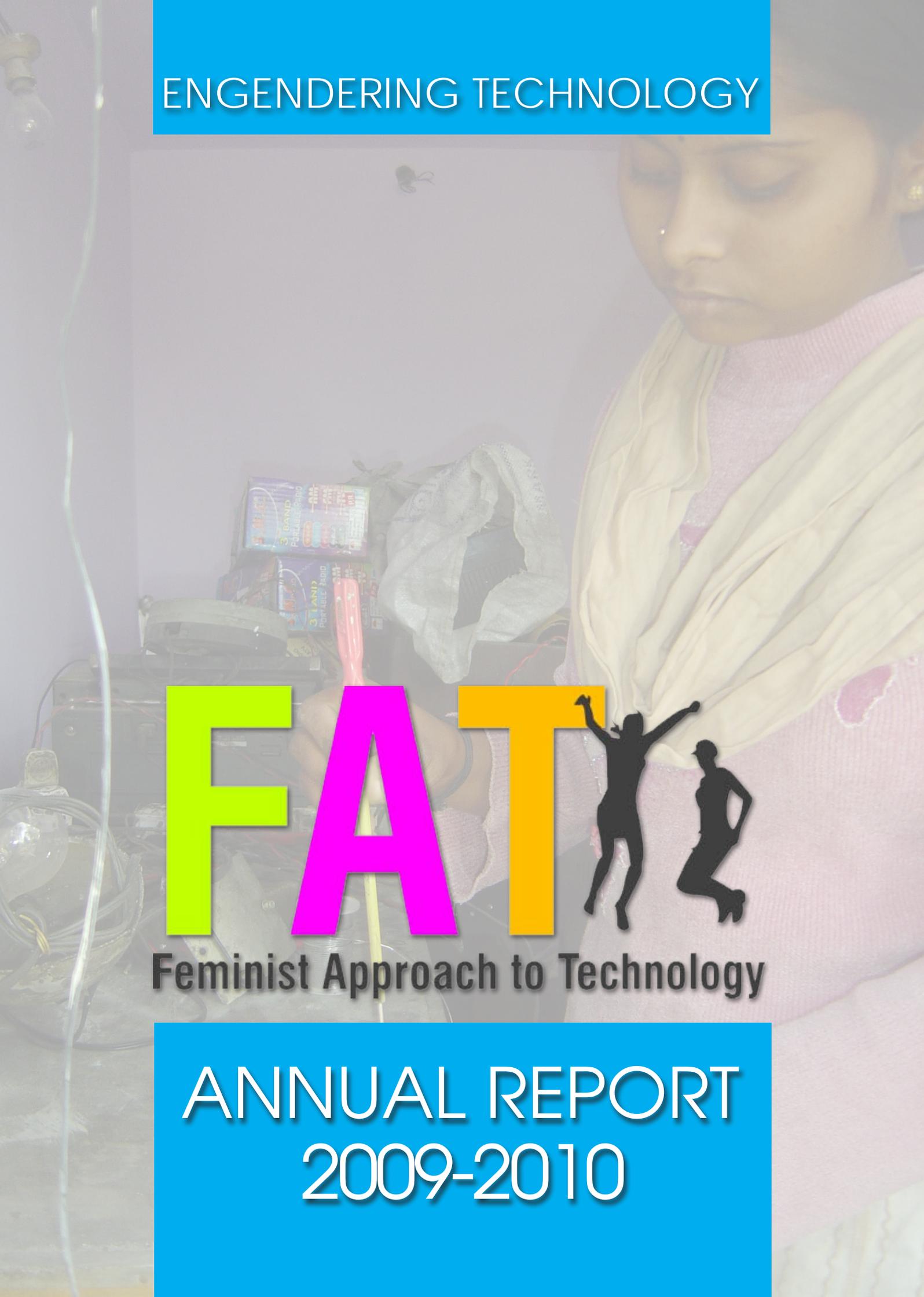
# FAT
## Feminist Approach to Technology

# ANNUAL REPORT
# 2009-2010

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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# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The patriarchal mindset of the Indian society has created a stereotypical notion that denies women the right to make educational and occupational choices. FAT envisions a world where all women have equal opportunities to learn, use and create technology, irrespective of their academic background or economic status; an environment where women are not intimidated by new technologies but rather have the opportunity to experiment with and benefit from them.

Our mission is to enhance women's awareness, interest and participation in technology in order to decrease the gender divide in this field and strengthen the involvement of women in the technical workforce and hence in policy making and leadership roles.

We believe technology is necessary for the empowerment of women because of the important role it plays in economic and social development.

Since FAT had been registered only in July 2008, a lot of legal formalities had to be completed in 2009 for it to be eligible for funding and tax rebates. Our energies were therefore focused on working towards completion of the legally required tasks and we also spent effort on streamlining our efforts towards networking with other organizations and also in raising funds.

A small team of volunteers dedicated its time to completing the legal formalities and fundraising for projects planned. Between these two primary objectives, the volunteers also managed to devote some time to building partnerships and solidarity, and spread the message of FAT across other organizations.

A fundraising campaign was launched for starting a Technical Education Center for underprivileged girls in Lajpat Nagar area of New Delhi – a dream that had sprouted out of the 10-day long workshop conducted by FAT in the same area in 2008 for adolescent girls. The campaign used email blasts and a Facebook group for outreach. This was a good exercise for the organization to practice donor communication, online outreach and to test the strength of our contacts database. We believe technology is necessary for the empowerment of women because of the important role it plays in economic and social development.

To aid in further fundraising, documentation and research, a short video was made in the month of January 2010 by our dear volunteers Shilpi Sharma and Lisa Hodges. The video focused on the girls living in the basti and tapped into their thoughts about why they needed technical education. It functioned as a great tool to fundraise as the donors could directly hear from the beneficiaries why they needed this tech center.

As another line of activity, the staff of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Assam



was sensitized to discourses around gender through three successive workshops on 'Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment at Workplace' in collaboration with Jagori and North East Network (NEN), both prominent women's rights organizations. There were 72-75 participants involved in each workshop. The workshops brought out many gender-related and sexual harassment-related confusions and queries from the participants, which earlier they had been unable to articulate.

One of FAT's core themes of work is capacity building of other non-profits, especially feminist organizations, to try and break the fear and apprehensions around technology usage and also to help them use technology more efficiently. In October 2009, we organized a Study Circle at Jagori, Delhi, as a

part of this effort. FAT conducted staff training for 10 team members of Jagori and brainstormed on technology usage, social media for outreach, campaigning, breaking myths about how hard technology is, and also how technology plays a role in discrimination against women.

Subsequently, we also facilitated many more capacity-building workshops for other non-profit organizations and their partners. Our workshops took us as far as the North East of India to facilitate workshops for Foundation for Social Transformation (a grant making organization focussing on the north east of India) and its partners.

Another task undertaken by FAT was to facilitate the South Asia Fund Raising Group (SAFRG) Workshop on online fundraising. FAT team member Lisa was the re-

source person in coordinating and facilitating this event and she managed to gather 24 participants in all from a wide range of organizations like Plan India, Oxfam etc.

In December 2009, FAT organized a workshop on social media and online campaign strategies for non-profit organizations. With participation from 17 women from the development sector, this workshop was a part of the WWW (Workshops for Women by Women) series that FAT has organized regularly since inception.

# OUTREACH EFFORTS

In an effort to reach out to as many other organizations as we can, we have actively participated in relevant events organized by other organizations, groups and individuals. The founder and executive director of FAT, Gayatri Buragohain, was invited to join the council of Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) in India and also nominated as the India Ambassador for ACM's Women's Council (ACM-W). ACM is widely recognized as the premier membership organization for computing professionals, delivering resources that advance computing as a science and a profession; enable professional development; and promote policies and research that benefit society.

As a representative of ACM-W, Gayatri was able to reach out to many women students, faculty and professionals in the field of computer science and talk to them about the importance of women's success in technical careers. In her talks, she always stresses on the importance of looking at the relationship of women's rights to the gender gap in technology, which turns the conversation from a woman's success in her career individually to women's need to take equal control of technical developments. Many media journalists, including one from All India Radio, have recently interviewed Gayatri to talk about FAT and its ideology. This is important evidence of the growing awareness on the issue.

# EVOLUTION & THE FUTURE

As we move forward, we have a lot to accomplish, many new ideas are conceived everyday, and yet we are limited from converting these into action due to lack of resources. One lesson we learnt from this process of evolution was that passion alone might sometimes lead to frustration. It needs planned action and involved support. FAT was created with an honest vision, intense passion and unimaginable hard work. With due diligence, we must plan our course of action and gather the required support. We stressed on fundraising towards the latter part of the financial year, because without funds, our efforts are not strong enough to make greater impact. For the next year, we hope the hard work put into fundraising will help us lay the foundation of a strong organization with well-planned and effective programs that help us achieve our goals.

## NON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT
## FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI
## BALANCE SHEET 2009-2010

| LIABILITIES | | | ASSETS | AMOUNT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPITAL FUND | | | FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Opening Balance | 3,046.00 | | Computer & Acce. Op. Bal. | 3,046.00 | |
| Addition - Net | 36,323.00 | 39,369.00 | Addition | 54,500.00 | |
| | | | Less: Dep. | 18,177.00 | 39,369.00 |
| | | | | | |
| GENERAL FUND | | | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Opening Balance on 01.04.2009 | 54,313.00 | | Programme Advace | 3,605.00 | |
| Add: Access of Income | | | Cash-in-Hand | 1,667.00 | |
| over Expenditure | 49,630.00 | 103,943.00 | With ICICI Bank A/C | 98,671.00 | 103,943.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Total (Rs) | | 143,312.00 | Total (Rs) | | 143,312.00 |

# AUDITED ACCOUNTS

NON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACCOUNT
FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2009-2010

| EXPENDITURE | AMOUNT | INCOME | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Honararium | 93,701.00 | Donation / Contribution | 294,616.00 |
| Meeting / Workshop Training Prog. | 17,196.00 | Bank Interest | 2,263.00 |
| Documentation | 18,500 | | |
| Other Program Cost | 1,305.00 | | |
| Printing and Stationery | 10,609.00 | | |
| Travel & Conveyance | 36,166.00 | | |
| Audit Fee | 7,500.00 | | |
| Project Equipment | 54,500.00 | | |
| Postage & Courier | 3,112.00 | | |
| Offie Exp. | 3,600.00 | | |
| Repair & Maint. | 1,060.00 | | |
| | | | |
| Excess of Income Over Expenditure | 49,630.00 | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL.....................(RS.) | 296,879.00 | TOTAL.....................(RS.) | 296,879.00 |