

**अखिल भारतीय जनवादी महिला संघटना**  
(ALL INDIA DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION)

**महाराष्ट्र राज्य समिती**  
ई - ५, एन्सा हटमेंट, महापालिका मार्ग, मुंबई ४००००१.

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August 25, 2019

**To Whomsoever It Concerns**

**Ms Rochana Kammowanee**, post graduate student of the Department of Public Policy at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai interned with the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) from April 10<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> 2019. She observed the role of the the frontline women workers, the ASHAs, of the government health care services, many of whom are also members of our organisation.

She looked through the literature on the public health services that we have gathered as part of our involvement in the Peoples Health Movement, as well as the literature on the unionising of the ASHA workers by the Centre For Indian Trade Unions (CITU), both of which were available in our office collection. She also extensively discussed the issues arising out of her observations.

In April Rochana spent time with the Community Health Volunteers (CHV) and urban ASHAs working in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation's Health Posts at Worli in order to familiarise herself with the type of work ASHAs undertake in the urban areas. She also visited Mankhurd to interact with the Anganwadi workers, another set of Scheme Workers who similarly have the status of volunteer workforce.

In May she began her field visits to Uran taluka of Raigad, assisted by the AIDWA district committee activists. She made four visits and produced a paper on the limited and scarce resources within which ASHAs and ANMs have to work within the government's rural health services. This paper has been very useful for our organisation as it will help us to formulate demands for greater resources for rural health care services in Uran taluka as part of our work with poor women farmers and labourers.

Ms Rochana was very dedicated in her work and took every opportunity to explore and understand the different perspectives on women health workers. She was also very sensitive in her observations and interactions with the women whose work she was observing. I wish her all success in her future endeavours.

**Sonya Gill**  
**Vice President**  
**9869250126**