

GROOTS

2016 January to June

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Similarly, at the meeting at Bhimavaram office, 70 members attended the meeting. President WWF also shared her experience and the story of initiation of the Narasapur branch. President WWF also highlighted the importance of using solar systems. Holding the review of the three branches meeting, President WWF delved into the membership and over-due details of the branches and listened to their explanations. Besides, she said the training has to reach more needy persons. This time the President WWF, took time off from official talk and desired to know about the staffs' personal life and their journey in this organization so far. ■



Dr. Jaya Arunachalam presenting the Laadli Media Award

Dr.S. Krishnaswamy, noted documentary producer and film maker invited Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, President WWF to grace the event of the **Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for Gender Sensitivity 2014-15 (Southern & Western Region)** as Guest of honor to felicitate media professionals in Chennai . The event was held at the Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women on March 4, 2016. The eminent economist M.S. Swaminathan was the chief guest. ■

On the eve of International Women's Day celebration, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam was invited as Chief Guest by the **Department of Women's Studies, Stella Maris College for Women, Chennai** on March 8, 2016 to inspire the students. To enlighten the students about the women's activism Dr. Jaya Arunachalam traced the history of worldwide women's movement and also shared the experiences of Working Women's Forum (India). Dr. Jaya Arunachalam highlighted that the



Dr. Jaya Arunachalam at Stella Maris College, Chennai

service of Christian Missionaries in India to the cause of women's education and reforms should be remembered with gratitude.

Further she said, even today the struggles of women are far from over as problems like dowry, rape, atrocities on women, gender violence still persist. She said that women's empowerment should never be reduced to individual success stories but it should lead to collective action. Concluding her speech, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam said that she has done her best and to carry forward the movement, now it is in the hands of young students like them. Dr. Sister. Helen Vincent said that over 90% of the women in India are marginalized, only 10% are shining and Dr. Jaya Arunachalam is one among them. She also quoted Dr. Jaya Arunachalam as a social activist and a dynamic lady in the field of empowerment of women. ■

President, WWF was also invited by Mr. Ravichandar, Head, HRD division of **Sundaram Motors**, Chennai to motivate and address their staff on March 8, 2016. Addressing the staff, President WWF said that true gender equality has not been achieved even after 65 years of India's Independence as women still remain as subordinates in workplaces reaching the level of Secretary and not as head of any institutions/office. In-addition, she also has to bear double drudgeries at home and work. President WWF urged women to reach ultimate goal. She advised them that one has to decide their life themselves and find their own path and motivations. Last but not least is that women should never think/feel that they are too old or incapable. ■