

## **From the President's Desk**



It is an immense honor to be the president of RUWA - an august association committed to the cause of gender justice, gender equality and empowerment of women. I feel overwhelmed by the trust reposed in me by the illustrious members of RUWA. With the continued support and cooperation of the members we will collectively work to maintain its rich legacy and also to try to enrich it further.

The strength of RUWA is the strength of its members. Right since its inception in 1975 it has been a second home to the finest of the feminist theorists so also to the most dedicated of woman activists. With such a strong academic and activist base RUWA has been raising its powerful voice against problems such as female foeticide and infanticide, sati, rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment. It has also been raising its voice against the poor condition of women health, nourishment, education, employment, economic participation and property rights. Its sustained insistence forced authorities at various levels to formulate various policies, programs and laws to improve the condition of Women. There still remains a lot to be done.

The basic impediment against gender justice is the deep-rooted patriarchal mindset of the society at large. RUWA undertakes extension and outreach activities, awareness and sensitization programs along with personalized legal and family counselling to change the prevailing mindset.

Any calamity whether it is drought, floods, riots or the present pandemic its impact is gendered. Woman suffers more because of being a woman. It has to be addressed accordingly.

The baffling advancements in science and technology are creating a condition of 'future shock' for everyone more so for women. The social, political, economic and cultural scenario is in a state of constant flux creating new problems and challenges for women. The challenge is to keep pace with the fast pace of change.

It requires us to keep infusing the young blood for the resilience and vibrancy of RUWA. We have to further our drive to include the young women students, to address to their specific problems and to create amongst them the sensitivity for the social issues. Preparing a second and third level of leadership is crucial for the sustainability and growth of any organization. It is gratifying to note that dynamic upcoming leadership is visible in RUWA which is eager to learn from the rich experiences of the stalwarts. We have to keep upgrading the strategies and techniques of consultancy, counselling and rehabilitation of women in distress. For advocacy, outreach, extension and dissemination the e-options are already in use. They have to be worked out more and more wherever possible and feasible.

There are myriads of problems. Collectively we will continue to succeed because for us at RUWA success is the journey itself rather than the few destinations only.

**Prof. Damyanti Gupta**