

Final Report

Women in Welding (WOW) Program

Organized by-

Department of Mechanical Engineering, SRM IST

&

The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW), Chennai Branch

Date of the event: 08-03-2025; Venue of the event: Automobile seminar hall, SRM IST

1.0) Introduction:

The Women in Welding (WOW) Program was successfully conducted on March 8, 2025, at the Automobile Seminar Hall, SRM IST Main Campus. Organized in collaboration with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, SRM IST, and IIW-India, Chennai Branch, the event aimed to celebrate and promote women's contributions to welding and manufacturing. It served as a platform for knowledge-sharing, networking, and skill development, aligning with International Women's Day to emphasize gender inclusivity and empowerment in welding.

A total of **75-woman participants, 12-woman welders and 4 women** professionals from various institutions and industries, actively took part in the event. Representatives from institutions such as Chennai Institute of Technology, Wheels India, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, and St. Joseph's College of Engineering attended, contributing to the vibrant discussions. Additionally, eminent scientists from IGCAR, Kalpakkam, graced the occasion with their presence, further enriching the program with their insights and expertise.

2.0) Inauguration of Women in Welding (WOW) Program (9.30 a.m to 10.30 a.m)

The event commenced with the rendition of *Tamil Thai Valthu* and the lighting of the Kuthuvilakku by Dr. Malarvizhi (Coordinator), women scientists, and women students. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. K. Kamalakkannan, Professor, Department of Automobile Engineering, SRM IST, who highlighted the significant strides women have made in the welding industry and emphasized the importance of fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. This was followed by the presidential address by Prof. V. Balasubramanian, Chairman, IIW-India, Chennai Branch, whose vision and leadership continue to inspire many in this domain. The inaugural address was delivered by Shri. Jose Philip, Chairman, IIW-India, honored the event with his presence. Shri. Jose Philip is the Managing Director of Tecpro Infra-Projects Limited, a company engaged in architectural, engineering, and other technical activities. About the Women in Welding (WOW) Program by Dr. Malarvizhi, Coordinator of WOW 2025, who inspired many woman students with her inspiring talk. The inauguration is followed by a technical talk by 3 Women Welding Engineers

3.0) Technical Talks by 3 Women Welding Engineers/Scientists (10.30 a.m to 1.00 p.m):

The event featured insightful **technical talks** by three distinguished women professionals in the welding industry:

1. **Mrs. Akila Sivagurunathan**, Managing Director, Mailam India Limited, Pondicherry, delivered a talk titled **“Women’s Contribution in the Welding Industry.”**
2. **Dr. Anita Toppo**, Scientist, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, presented on **“Corrosion in Welds.”**
3. **Dr. S. Malarvizhi**, Professor, CEMAJOR, Annamalai University, shared insights on **“Various Research Projects in Welding.”**

The technical session was followed by lunch at SRM Royal Canteen for all participants.

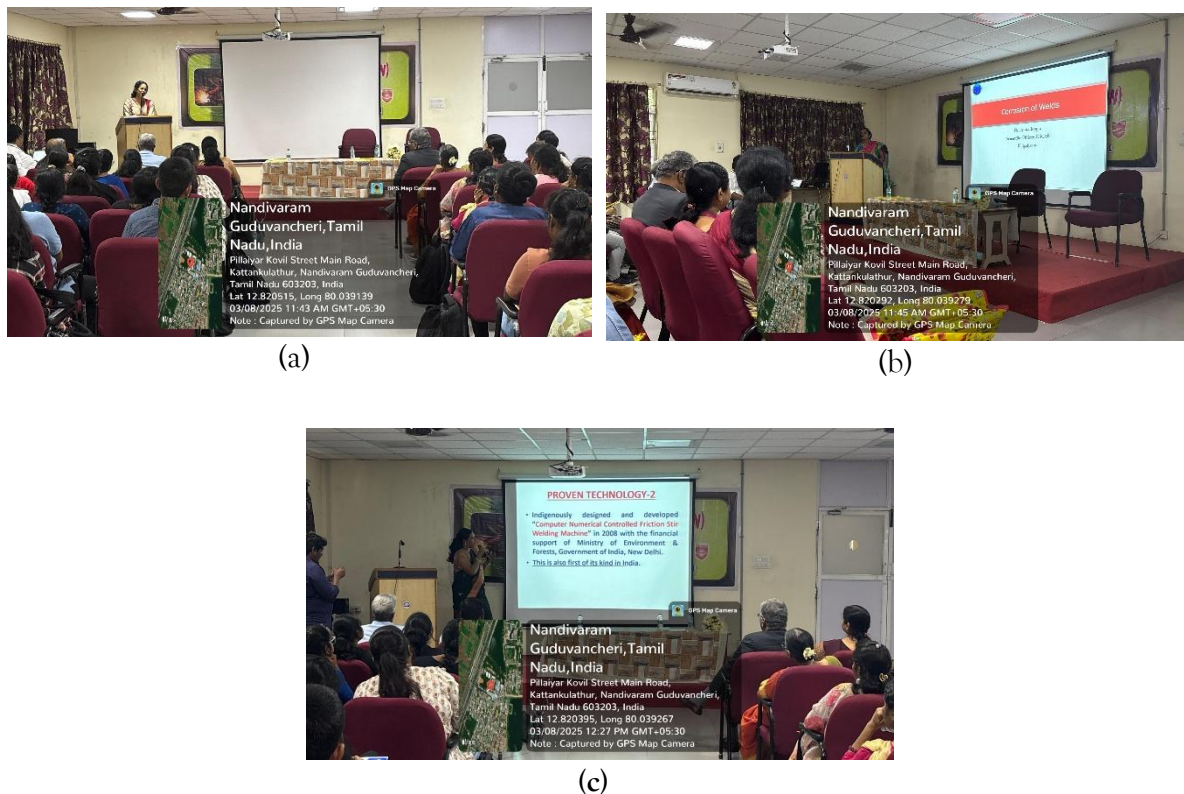


Figure 1- Technical Talks by (a)Mrs. Akila Sivagurunathan, Managing Director, Mailam India Limited, Pondicherry, (b) Dr. Anita Toppo, Scientist, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR), Kalpakkam and (c) Dr. S. Malarvizhi, Professor, CEMAJOR, Annamalai University,

4.0) Poster Presentation by Women Students (1.00 p.m to 2.00 p.m):

Women students from **all levels and disciplines** were invited to participate in the **Poster Presentation** on the theme **"Welding for Nation Building."** Each team, consisting of **2-4 students**, prepared and presented their posters, which were displayed on **provided boards**.

A total of **six posters** were showcased during the event. A **panel of judges** interacted with the teams to understand the concepts presented and evaluate their work. After careful assessment, **three outstanding posters** were selected as winners.

The winners received **cash prizes** as follows:

- **First Prize: ₹5000**
- **Second Prize: ₹4000**
- **Third Prize: ₹3000**



Figure 2- (a) Professor from the School of Mechanical Engineering, SRMIST, and IIW Management committee members at the Poster session (b) Poster presentation by woman students, professors, and scientist

5.0) Welding Quiz Program for Women Students from Academic institutions and industries (2.00 PM to 5.30 PM)

Women students from **all levels and disciplines** were invited to participate in the **Welding Quiz Contest**. The competition began with a **written examination**, followed by a **quiz round**, where teams of **two students** competed.

The winners were awarded **cash prizes** as follows:

- **First Prize: ₹5000**
- **Second Prize: ₹4000**
- **Third Prize: ₹3000**

The event was **hosted by Dr. Hemant Kumar, Scientific Officer F, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam**. This engaging competition provided students with an opportunity to **test their technical knowledge in welding** while fostering a spirit of **learning and collaboration**.



Figure 3 – (a) Preliminary quiz competition and (b) Final quiz round in a group of 2 Nos.

6.0) Valedictory Function (5.30 p.m to 6.00 p.m) :

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by **Dr. Malarvizhi**, Coordinator of the WOW Program, along with **Prof. V. Balasubramanian**, Chairman, IIW-India, Chennai Branch, and **Shri. Jose Philip**, Chairman, IIW-India. A special appreciation was extended to **Dr. Baskar Sethupathi**, **Dr. N. Harshavardhana**, and **Dr. Sundar Singh Sivam** from SRMIST for their efforts in organizing the event in a grand and impactful manner. Thanks to **Dr. K. Suresh Kumar**, Professor & Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SRM IST, and **Dr. M. Cheralathan**, Professor and Chairperson, School of Mechanical Engineering, SRM IST for their support for making this event a grand success.

The event concluded with the Prize Distribution and Certificate Distribution, marking the successful completion of the Women in Welding (WOW) Program 2025.