

No. 10, 1989

Editorial

✓ The Year of the Girl Child - None Too Soon

1990 has been declared as the year of the girl child by the SAARC Conference. In 1987 the SAARC Conference on "South Asian Children" gave an urgent call for improvement of the mother child life cycle beginning with the girl child.

In India, to be a female is considered a curse. It is popularly said that when a person does an unaccountable number of sins he gets reborn as a female. Thus, to be a female in India is to be less than a human. She is considered a burden on her family, right from her existence in the womb. The use of a test called amniocentesis, originally devised for detecting congenital malformation, but now mostly used for detecting the sex of the foetus, has become widespread among all sections of society, for it has opened up a way of disposing of the unwanted female child because it is perceived as a liability even by her mother.

A survey conducted in Bombay in 1982 found that among eight thousand abortions reported, 7,999 were of female foetuses.

The gender based discrimination starts from the birth of a female child. The girl child is neglected and deprived of most of the basic needs for proper growth. This attitude is rooted in the Indian social system. The dowry system, the lack of economic independence for women, social customs and traditions made the life of a girl child miserable. No female child is an exception to this. The degree of her miseries may change from rural to urban from caste to caste and from family to family but the basic social attitude of looking at her as an inferior being is universally the same. Findings from research suggest that there is no positive relationship between the prosperity of a family and the status of a girl child. In Punjab and Haryana, for instance, the high figure of mortality of girl children is striking despite their high per capita income.

In Rajasthan and Tamilnadu the custom of female infanticide still prevails. Child marriages take place not only in remote villages but also in the urban slums of Bombay and Delhi.

Right from the nineteenth century the social reformers tried their best to bring about public awareness of women's low status in the society and forced the British Government to make appropriate and adequate legislations to curb some horrible traditions such as female infanticide, child marriage, Sati and marriage of teenage girls to elderly men. Our own central and state governments have passed laws to protect the female child such as; 1) Children's Act, 2) Hindu Bigamy Marriages Act, 3) Prevention of Prostitution, 4) Prohibition of Offenders Act, 5) Child Marriage Restraint Act.

But the ill fated, Indian female child is still at the mercy of our backward looking socio-cultural practices even at the end of the 20th century! A girl child is deprived of opportunities for education which her brother gets by right. She suffers from malnutrition.

It is strangely enough forgotten that these girls are the mothers of the future generation and that their own education and health will determine the quality of their families and the generations to come. No Act can help to improve the status and position of a girl child in the family, unless the overall societal attitude towards girls changes.

Then the question arises how to eradicate the social evils which make the girl's life miserable! The brain storming sessions, conferences, seminars and symposia etc. are organised by the university departments, women's organisations and research centres. March 8, the International Women's Day was celebrated as a "Save Girl Child Day" by women's organisations from Delhi. Thousands of women joined hands to form a human chain around Parliament House and pledged to defend their rights and continue their united struggle for equality and justice.

Discussions on platforms will alone not bring any solutions to the problem. No doubt the discussions have their own impact. But what we need today is to create the necessary social awareness on a war footing. The press has also its place in this task. T.V. can help more as it is an audio-visual means of

communication. The Government must be more alert to see that all the laws regarding women are implemented in a correct way. The new laws should be enacted in such a way that they do not further victimise the woman victim.

Child marriages should be prevented through social awareness. Persons who supply information to authorities about child marriages, infanticide or any other atrocities against a woman should be rewarded in public, so many more will come forward to give such information.

The rate of literacy among the women is very low. A war for female literacy must be launched. Unless the mothers are literate and know their rights, they will not stop thinking that a birth of a female child is a liability, as a drain to their family assets and wealth, and a daughter is a property of others. The Kanya Dan ceremony among Hindu weddings should be opposed and banned by the daughters and mothers. All forms of media should spare no effort to convey the message of self-reliance and self-worth of women. It should be society's topmost priority to see that girls get education and get full opportunity to use their creative abilities. Those women who have proved their ability in different spheres of life should be given publicity through media and through text-books. It will help the girls to build up their confidence in themselves and have new role models. The obscene portrayal of a girl in advertisements and in cinemas should be totally banned as it is an insult to the individuality of the girl, and in the long run it nurtures a culture of violence against women.

The increasing incidences of violence against girls such as child molestation, rape, murder and child prostitution demands urgent attention of not only the state but also the women's groups and organisations.

The girl child is always discriminated against in the family. She has to help her mother in cooking, in odd domestic jobs and looking after the siblings, while her older and younger brothers spend their time in leisure. Among the lower classes the girl child has to help her parents both at home and outside the home in their work. Sometimes they get employment as domestic servants and work for very long hours and in addition, face sexual assault from male employers. Girls work as farm labourers, at construction sites and in unregistered factories which damage their physical and mental health. The daughters of Devadasis and Muralis have no other way but to follow in the footsteps of their mothers. Parents dedicate their daughters to Goddess Yallamma or God Khandoba in Maharashtra and Karnataka. The problem of teenage pregnancy needs more detailed probing from the women's studies researches.

There is an urgent need to educate mothers and daughters, to make them aware that time has changed. The proper bringing up of a girl is one of the best services to the nation. To convince society of this through different formal and nonformal media, the celebration of 1990 as the year of the girl child is truly needed.

Dr. Rohini Gawankar.

Reports of Workshops & Conferences

Visibility of Women in Statistics and Indicators Research Centre for Women's Studies, Bombay

A national workshop on "Visibility of Women in Statistics and Indicators" organised by Research Centre for Women's Studies of S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay, Department of Women and Child Development of Government of India and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) during July, 1989 served as a catalyst for a national debate for improvement of the quality of information available for fuller integration of women in the national development policies and plans. As the local director of this workshop Dr. Maithreyi Krishnaraj stated in the theme paper of the workshop, "A major concern has been the imperfections of data systems with respect to women's work. Women's participation in the economy is frequently under reported in most statistical systems of developing countries. Data systems of these countries adopt conceptual categories ill equipped to capture the full range and complexity of women's contribution. This is not only a question of under reporting, but also of biases and distortions that affect women's

development." During the workshop very important issues concerning women in the labour force, female work force, female headed households, biases in enumeration, sensitization of the census authorities and National Sample Survey authorities were discussed. Based on the recommendations of this workshop which was attended by scholars from Census of India, Planning Commission of India, National Labour Institute, NIPCCD, Madras Institute of Development Studies, NCAER, etc. we had dialogues with the Director General of Census Operations (Maharashtra) and later on in Delhi with experts working on the subject. As an outcome of these deliberations a short note was prepared to be incorporated in the training manual for the enumerators of the 1991 Census. This endeavour was supported by UNIFEM and UNDP, who have also agreed to take out a poster for awareness regarding women's paid and unpaid work in the rural and urban context. The suggestions given by the scholars and experts are based on the following recommendations :

Probing Questions to be included in the Questionnaire by the Census of India 1991 in its section on Economic Questions:

An Explanatory Note: Without changing the definition of 'major' and 'minor' activity, without altering the concept of work and without changing the question-format of the Census of India, we are attempting to capture women's work. Here the attempt is to include such work which are 'major' but get reported as 'marginal' activities because of cultural biases that see women as only housewives.

The enumerator must be thoroughly trained not to accept housework as an answer in response to the question "Worked any time at all last year?", but probe further before deciding on the classification of worker/non-worker because women include many activities as a part of housework which technically speaking are not. Let household duties be considered as **residual activity and not primary**. As ninety percent of women do household work, the important thing is to see what they are doing as workers.

Recommendations:

1. There should be different posters to accommodate known regional specificities, highlighting multiple activities of women.
2. There should be an induction of large number of female enumerators. Women should be encouraged to come forward as enumerators. The role of female enumerators should be given publicity on the mass media.

3. The Census of India should motivate the mass media to give publicity to encourage correct reporting of women's work.
4. Posters should reach village or locality concerned, rather than district headquarters or village panchayats, where people, especially women can see them, for e.g. family planning clinics, primary health centres, ICDS centres, Anganwadis, Balwadis, etc.
5. As we cannot, without additional questions get female supported households, we may:-
 - i) Identify through special coding, households without male members and tabulate these separately.
 - ii) Identify through individual slips, economic activity of women of such households and cross tabulate.
 - iii) Tabulation of reported female heads of households.
 - iv) In the questions on marital status, divorced and separated should be separately coded and separated should not mean only legally separated. This is to identify abandoned women.

By *Dr. Maithreyi Krishnaraj*
Dr. Vibhuti Patel

✓ Conference of Deserted Women at Bombay

Mahila Dakshata Samiti & Samajwadi Mahil Sabha, two leading women's organisations in Bombay, organised a conference of women deserted by their husbands on the 14th & 15th April 1990 in Bombay. The objectives of organising such a conference, were to understand clearly the problems faced by deserted women, to seek organised solutions to their problems, and to prepare a charter of demands on behalf of these women to be presented to the Government of Maharashtra. A large number of social workers from various centres of Maharashtra viz. Pune, Kolhapur, Sangli, Wai, Dhule, Ambejogai, Nasik etc. along with groups of deserted women, attended the conference. The presence of some Muslim women divorced by their husbands was a most welcome feature. A booklet based on the analysis of 175 cases of deserted women dealt with by Mahila Dakshata Samiti, was published and distributed on the occasion.

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Suma Chitnis the Vice-Chancellor of S.N.D.T. Women's University. The former Vice-Chancellor Mrs. Kamalini Bhansali was also present on

the occasion along with Mrs. Premila Dandavate, Mrs. Meenaxi Apte of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mrs. Tara Shastri and other eminent women from the field of Social work. Dr. Rohini Gawankar acted as a compere and co-ordinator throughout the conference.

Dr. Suma Chitnis in her address said that Annasaheb Karve started the college for needy women. Since then, times have changed, women are better educated and more bold, but the problems are still the same. There is a need for coordinated efforts on the part of voluntary organisations and Government to solve some of these problems.

Dr. Shanta Vaidya, the author of the booklet, explained in short, the conclusions of her analysis of 175 cases and explained the roles of various agencies in ameliorating the sufferings of these women.

The second and the third session of the conference were devoted to the narrations of the women who had gathered there.

One after the other, women from all strata of society, uneducated and educated, rural and urban, walked to the stage and narrated the heart - rending stories of the atrocities committed against them and their children by the husbands & in - laws. Often the woman herself broke down on the stage and moved the audience to tears. In spite of the legal sanctions against bigamy, more than one marriage seemed to be a common occurrence.

A number of social workers explained their difficulties in dealing with the cases of these women. Lack of sympathy & understanding from the police and other Government authorities, ineffective enforcement of legal provisions and inordinate delay in getting justice, made their task more difficult. They felt that it was absolutely necessary to organise a movement of deserted women all over the country if their voice was to be heard by parliament.

A charter of demands was prepared on the second day and was discussed on the floor. In her concluding speech Mrs. Pramila Dandavate said "Our hearts were moved to tears yesterday by the sad tales of our sisters gathered here. But to-day those tears are formed into resolves. We shall unite together, and by our strength, change these conditions. We shall not beg for mercy. Let not your daughters suffer what you have undergone. They shall not be deserted wives".

The following were some of the main demands incorporated in the charters. They could be divided into five heads viz. demands for (a) Shelter (b) Education (c) Employment (d) Alimony and (e) Amendments to acts & legal provisions.

The Main Demands:-

- 1) Shelter homes for temporary shelter for women who have to leave their homes should be provided from the Taluka level upwards. These homes should not deny temporary shelter to the children of a deserted woman.
- 2) Government should build for these women small tenements in the 'Gharkul' Programme.

- 3) More polytechnics should be opened for women. Deserted women should get admission to these polytechnics on a priority basis notwithstanding the percentage of marks they have obtained in the previous examinations.
- 4) All facilities in the field of education, employment, residential quarters, hostels etc. given to scheduled class, scheduled tribes should be made available to deserted women and their children.
- 5) All cases of alimony should be disposed off within six months. An interim alimony should be granted within one month from the date of application.
- 6) If the husband is in service the alimony should be directly cut from his pay.
- 7) Deserted women should get preference in the employment guarantee scheme. She should also get loans at nominal rates of interest and a subsidy if she wants to start her own business.
- 8) A single woman living with her children should be regarded as the head of a family and a ration card should be issued in her name.
- 9) Registered voluntary organisations should have powers to certify a woman as deserted.
- 10) Bigamy should be made a cognisable offence.
- 11) A national commission on women with statutory powers should be appointed to ensure stricter enforcement of laws regarding women.
- 12) Laws regarding marriage, divorce, alimony, inheritance should be the same for all Indian women, irrespective of their religion.

The deputation of 10 activists of Mahila Dakshata Samiti and Samajwadi Mahila Sabha had an appointment with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and submitted the demands to him, which received a nice response from him.

Smt. Shanta Vaidya

✓ Child Care as an Essential Input in Women's Development

Recognizing the urgent need of child care as an essential input in women's development, the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi with the collaboration of seven institutions from Madras, Jaipur, Raipur, New Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay and supported by UNICEF, launched three level studies in February 1989. These are (i) A macro level documentation of existing child care services and preparations of a State Profile, (2) Indepth case studies of selected child care centres and (3) Micro level study of community settings to evaluate the needs of women. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the following :

- Out reach
- Content and quality

- Women's participation and support training
- Impact of women and children cost effectiveness
- Replicability.

Realizing the fact that about 15 crore women below the poverty line constitute the female work force and 90 percent out of them are in the unorganized sector, the responsibility of child care undoubtedly falls on women. The double or triple burden not only affects their health and bargaining power but also the education of young girls.

The necessity of child care facility is not a new demand. Actually even as early as 1939-40 in the document on women in a planned economy, creation of creches through a scheme of

social insurance was recommended. In the following years, various documents, statutory reports, legislations have reiterated the need but without any serious action taken in this area. The Balwadis and Anganwadis were also presumed to be somewhat meeting this dire need. Various evaluations of the ICDS schemes have pointed out that their scope is limited, though its outreach is to the remotest village.

In this background the second workshop on child care was held on 2nd and 3rd March 1990, wherein 37 participants from various parts of the country representing research institutes, trade unions, Planning Commission, Mobile Creche, UNICEF and other voluntary organizations attended.

Besides reviewing the various reports received from the different centres, discussions focussed on possible models to be developed; resources to be generated; involvement of fathers; child care workers' plight and need for legislation on child care.

One of the most important fall out of the workshop was the organization of a joint meeting with "The Forum for Creches and Child Care Services", who after discussing the details submitted a memorandum to the Planning Commission on 5th March. The memorandum has stressed the need of inclusion of child care services under the Minimum Needs Programmes and setting up of Special Fund Creches and Child Care Services.

Dr. Neera Desai

Nation Wide Seminars on Women's Issues.

1) ✓ The Centre for Social Studies at Surat, organised a three-day seminar on "Women & Work" from 23-1-90 to 25-1-90. Nearly 36 participants were invited from different parts of the country. The case studies on Women's Co-operatives, Women in Jari Industry etc. were discussed. Some papers on theoretical aspect of Women and Work were also presented. For further details contact. Dr. S.P. Punalekar, Centre for Social Studies, South Gujarat University Campus, Surat-395007.

2) On 2nd of Oct. 1989, the Women's Studies and Development Centre organised a seminar on "Contribution of rural women to rural development."

The root causes for the lower economic status of rural women were discussed and recommendations were made to improve their status.

3) ✓ Research Centre for Women's Studies, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay organised a National Seminar on "Women and Food Processing" during 2-4, April, 1990. The seminar highlighted the policy issues concerning the food processing industry, impact of mechanisation of food-processing on women, case-studies of women in papad, pickle, snacks, fish, jams, jelly, cashew, rice industry, food-processing and self-employment, role of corporate sector and women entrepreneurs, food-processing

and its impact on nutrition, role of the state, women's organisations, trade unions and policy planners v.s. food processing industry. For further details contact:-

Research Centre for Women's Studies, Sir Vithaldas Thakersey Vidya Vihar, Juhu Road, Santacruz (West), Bombay 400 049.

4) ✓ The three-day National Seminar on "Women's Studies and Development" sponsored by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, was organised by Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar from 7 to 9 December 1989.

Prof. Lakshmi Misra, Director of the Seminar while welcoming the guests, presented the profile of women in India and abroad and put forward the objectives of the seminar. Prof. Purnima Mathur, I.I.T. Delhi emphasised the importance of the Centre for Women's Studies and the organisation of social work to create awareness among women. Smt. Kamala Kumar explained the need of networking of women's Information Centres.

A general discussion was held on the Women's Studies curriculum to be included in the University courses. On the whole the seminar succeeded in creating interest and awareness of women's problems among people in general and women in particular of this region.

✓ Rape in Motion Pictures & in Law

• Mahila Dakshata Samiti, Bombay, organised an audio-visual discussion on the above subject on 13th January 1990 in celebration of the Samiti's anniversary. The aim was to show how motion pictures often twist the law, & explain to the women present the correct law regarding rape.

The discussion was based on some rape scenes from the movies "Insaf Ka Tarajoo" "Aan Millo Sajana" "Tejab" & "Jakhami Aurat".

In spite of the utmost resistance to rape put up by the heroine, no evidence of that is produced & the rapist is declared

as innocent by the court. This is the stay of 'Insaf Ka Taraju'. This is absurd. Even if the woman shows the slightest resistance, the culprit is held guilty by the law. It is only the willing consent given to the intercourse after proper thought by the woman-concerned that can save the relationship from being called a rape under law. Hindi pictures often depict a very wrong version of the law and fool people. This was the opinion expressed by Shri Rajendra Pai. Law protects women's honour, he asserted. In the last ten years, in rape cases, whenever a woman has boldly put up her case in the court, the culprit was convicted.

Shri Arvind Patwardhan, Retd. Police Commissioner emphasized the right to self defence or defence of a victim given to every citizen by section 100 of the Indian Penal Code. If in an attempt to protect herself, the victim or any one who helps, even kills the rapist it will not be regarded as murder. He asserted and advised the women to be brave in self defence.

Shri Kamlakar Sarang, a famous actor, defended the writers by saying that even if a writer depicts a wrong picture

of the law, it is artistic liberty taken by him to entertain the audience. The audience and the censor board both are also to be blamed for tolerating violations of law. Organisations like Mahila Dakshata Samiti must represent to the Government and insist on the guidelines to the censorboard being changed.

The function ended with a vote of thanks.

National Meet on Perspectives and Strategy for the Anti-Rape Campaign

In the past few months there have been a series of incidents of rape and sexual harassments in different parts of the country which have caught the attention of women's and other groups in Maharashtra. A Kasthakari Sanghatana activist was gang-raped by Kisan Sabha cadres, a woman was molested by a Congress. (I.) M.P. in Goa, a woman environmentalist was molested by a then Union Minister in Delhi. Some of the recent adverse court judgements have also caused serious concern amongst women. The attitude of the police too has not changed in spite of the many special cells and other forms of state intervention. The social stigma and ostracism which surrounds raped women is as impervious as ever.

Whilst it is heartening to see that individual women are more willing to fight for justice despite social stigma and the apathy of the courts, we feel we need to review our strategy and campaign against rape. As part of its tenth year celebration, the Forum Against Oppression of Women (FAOW), Bombay, had organised a workshop inviting various groups in Bombay to discuss the issues of rape, law and strategy. About 40 women attended and raised a number of interesting issues, criticised our own methods and strategies and gave suggestions for further action. Can we work towards a more realistic definition of rape? Can the burden of proof be shifted to the rapist? How successful have we been in our consciousness-raising attempts? Have we provided adequate support to raped women? Have we been able to develop alternate ways of protest? Is it possible to jointly evolve structures like rape crisis centres to address the issue?

It was in these meetings that the idea of a National Meet in April, 1990 which would allow us to review, evaluate and revive our antirape campaign emerged.

About 5-7 groups who have worked on the issue of rape in trying to help support rape victims or raise the issue publicly, presented their analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of their own campaigns, so that issues can be focussed and discussed concretely.

by Smt. Sujata Gotoskar.

Regulation on Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques

The Forum against Sex Determination & Sex Pre-Selection has representatives from the women's movement, people's science movement and civil liberties movement. They have been consistently campaigning in Bombay for the last three years against the inhuman practice of sex determination followed by discriminatory female foeticide. Their efforts bore some fruit when the State Government of Maharashtra passed the "Maharashtra Regulation of Use of Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act" this year banning the use of these techniques for purposes of sex determination. (These techniques are actually meant for detection of genetic abnormalities which should be allowed)

Although this has been a step taken by the Maharashtra Government, abuse of these techniques is not restricted to this state alone. In fact with the passing of the legislation in Maharashtra, the neighbouring states of Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka are already reporting greater proliferation of this practice. An isolated Act of this kind should hence be taken as a precedent to follow with a central legislation. It is very urgent today that such an Act covering the whole country is passed soon before the tests become more widespread.

by Dr. Vibhuti Patel

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 1) A Women's Theatre Festival was organised from 2nd to 5th June '90 at Bombay

Each evening there was a performance by an established theatre group and a progressive organisation from different regions and languages.

The broad structure of the seminar during the day had also been worked out. It dealt with 3 main points which were evolved through discussions with artists and activists from different cities which are as follows:

1. Dialectics of our relationship with tradition.
2. To create a forum for dialogue between artists of different disciplines who are sensitive to women's issues and activists from the women's movement.
3. To assess the contemporary protest culture.
2. The IV National Conference of women's rights activists on "Perspective for women's liberation movement in

(Continued on page - 8)

I am -
 I am the geet-less
 Bhagwad -Geeta.*
 I am Seeta
 Written in the fate of Ram.**
 I am that poetry
 which has no shape, no form.
 I am the river that is
 not allowed to gush forth.
 I am imprisoned in the midst of the air.
 I am the opacity of light between
 the earth and the sky.
 I am the performing monkey amidst the
 dum dum dum
 of the world around me.
 I am the ink
 flooding out of the ink-pot.
 Wrestling with the pen
 I am a fistful of paper.

Every single time for every little thing
 I am crushed and crushed again.
 I am a hollow being and persistent wailing.
 I am the crackle
 of the stones in the dried-up river.
 I am the wasp's sting
 when I hear someone admired.
 In the name of the most poisonous snake
 I wear
 I too am a poison.
 Between two layers of companionship
 I am mud, ashes, sand,
 scattered, all scattered.
 I am the corpse buried under the debris of time
 disintegrating moment after moment.

* The Bhagwad-Geeta: Song of the Sublime

** This has a reference to the Ramayana in which Seeta was subjected to much suffering by Ram, her husband, on account of his pursuit of the political ideals as a king.

by Nita P. Ramaiya

All those whose membership has expired by March 1990, kindly renew your membership by writing for forms to the Treasurer, Dr. Kumud Sharma, B-43, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi - 110001.

Categories of Membership and subscription rates:

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|--|---|
| (a) Ordinary Members | Rs. 25 per annum or
Rs. 100 for 5 years. |
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Rs. 1000 for 5 years. |
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| (e) Student Members | Rs. 10 per annum |
| (f) Associates | Rs. 25 per annum or
Rs. 250 for 10 years. |

FELICITATIONS

... To our President, Smt. Kamalini H. Mansali, who is the recipient of the 1990 SYMONS AWARD of 1990, which will be presented to her by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, London, for her outstanding services to the Association during her tenure as Vice-Chancellor of SNTD Women's University, Bombay.

... To Dr. S. Anand Lakshmi, member of our Executive Committee and Director of Lady Irwin College, Delhi, for receiving the Shiromani Award, 1989 for her contribution to teaching.

The Shiromani Award is conferred for excellence in one's respective field of work and she is one of the 31 women from different fields of work to receive this prestigious award.

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India', will be held at Calicut during 28-31 December, 1990. For further information contact :

Bodhana, HARITHAKAM Chevayur, May Day Road, CALICUT. Pin-673017, Kerala. **Phone:** 65021 (Calicut).

3. International conference on the "Role of Women in Technical and Industrial Development" will be held at Metro Manila, the Philippines from 11 to 15 June 1990. Kindly contact the Director for further information :

THAMRONGSAK MOENJAK

P.O. Box-7500, 1300 Domestic Air Post, Post Office Metro Manila, Philippines.

4. The Centre for Global Issues and Women's Leadership announced its opening at Douglass College in September 1989. The Centre seeks to deepen an understanding of the way in which gender affects the exercise of power and conduct of public policy internationally. The Centre's goals are to:

- * Develop ways of bringing women's perspectives and strategies into greater visibility in public policy deliberations nationally and internationally
- * Identify means of increasing the participation and influence of women leaders in decision-making roles in their countries and in global institutions, and

- * Build international linkages among women in local leadership that enhance their effectiveness and increase their global consciousness.

The Centre will embrace the concerns of women from diverse regions and ethnic backgrounds with a focus on topics critical to women's lives globally.

For further information about the Centre for Global Issues and Women's Leadership, contact Charlotte Bunch, Director, Box 270, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ 0803-0270, U.S.A.

5. WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, MADRID 1990:- Sessions on Women Related Issues Designed by Research Committee 32 (on Women and Society) For further details write to the Chairperson :

Dr. : Neera Desai
Jai Kutir, Taikalwadi Road
Mahim, P.O. BOMBAY - 400 016.

6. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS ON WOMEN :

WOMEN'S WORLDS 1990 : Realities and Choices, to be held at Hunter College from June 3-7, 1990. For further information write to Marsha Frankel, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College-CUNY, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, U.S.A.

Library

Appeal for Research Work

All members are requested to send information about research completed or in progress such as research reports, Ph.D. and M.Phil dissertations on women and documents recording the process of women's action towards empowerment. Write to the regional coordinators or to the Editor I.A.W.S. Newsletter, 304, Shivprabha, R.K. Vaidya Marg, Bombay - 400 028.

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