

Indian Association for Women's Studies NEWSLETTER

No. 18

Winter 1992

SIXTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

The broad theme of the conference, to be held between Monday, May 31st and Thursday, June 3rd, 1993, at the University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka, is "**The Dynamics of the New Economic Policy: Implications for Women.**" The recently begun process of economic reform has ramifications going beyond economics and entering every aspect of life. Such macro-policies have *differential* impact on divisions based on gender and class. While there is some glimmering recognition of this possibility, the implications for women (especially poor women) have not received any attention from the policy makers, administrators, legislators, mainstream media or the general public.

Critical areas on which these policies will impinge are size and nature of employment, social services and political perspectives. For example, scarce resources as well as the export thrust directly affect the goal and purpose of programs for education, health, social security, poverty alleviation and so on.

The Conference, through its carefully designed sub-themes, plans to identify and highlight the two-way connection between women and the economy. An understanding of these linkages, and anticipation of the kinds of changes that are likely to happen, would facilitate opinion building and action by the women's movement, both to safeguard and to promote the advancement of women. It would help the IAWS to spear-head an active lobby for women, vis-a-vis the State in collaboration with such organisations as the National Commission for Women and other national level bodies, as well as voluntary organisations working at the grass roots.

Through developing the information base and providing mechanisms for convergence of discussions, the Conference hopes to develop viewpoints in macropolicy, showing the links between women and economy; thus food and work, the link with health and social security, changes in the structure of employment, the potential

for violence, drug use, the population policy etc. will be analyzed.

Responses to the recent economic policies have to be orchestrated at three levels: academic, policy and grass roots action. IAWS will thus be in a unique position to mediate the perspectives at all three levels, present the inter-linkages, and initiate action.

Eight sub-themes have been identified for discussion.

SUB-THEME 1: WORK, EMPLOYMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Co-ordinator: Indira Hirway,
Gandhi Labour Institute
Thalttej,
AHMEDABAD 380 054

The major issues that deserve careful attention of scholars and policy makers can be listed as follows:

1. The genesis of NEP and its content; its impact on foreign trade and foreign debt of the country, on macro-growth process of the economy in rural and urban areas and on the overall employment scene in the country, in the short run and the long run.
2. NEP and women's work in the Industrial Sector: in export trade zones, in export industries, in multinational corporations, and in small and large industries; the impact on women's workforce participation rates, their occupational diversification, their employment status, wages and their general status in the labour market.
3. NEP and the rural sector, changes in employment prospects for women in agriculture and allied activities.
4. NEP and food security in the short run and the long run: Impact of (a) inflationary pressures, (b) reduction in real wages (c) reduction in social expenditure, and (d) reduction in subsidies and PDS on the status of food security for the poor.

5. Experiences of other developing economies in S.America, Africa and Asia with regard to women's work and food security, and the implications of these experiences for India.
6. Policy alternatives of the NEP can be seen in different ways: (a) giving a human face to NEP through safety nets, PDS, increased social expenditure etc., (b) going slow on NEP to avoid radical changes and (c) considering steps like debt rescheduling and debt reduction, joining a trade zone rather than going for liberalised trade and adopting agriculture based growth strategy rather than export-led growth strategy.

SUB-THEME 2: EDUCATION, CULTURE AND MEDIA

Co-ordinator: Akhila Sivadas
E1 Press Enclave,
Saket,
NEW DELHI 110 017

The success of this discussion will largely depend on our being able to integrate the perception of academicians and researchers with the practitioners within the media, and cultural and education institutions. To accomplish this we need to discuss separately the areas of media, education and culture and at the same time, devote one session to an overview of the three aspects and their influence on each other.

SUB-THEME 3: HEALTH AND POPULATION

Co-ordinator: Meera Shiva,
VHAI
Voluntary Health Association of India
Tong Swasthya Bhavan,
Institutional Area (South of IIT)
NEW DELHI- 110 016

The health and nutritional status of women in India has been below optimum for generations. Though the reasons for this have been recognised, women have continued to be ignored as important contributors to the economy and society.

With the introduction of the New Economic Policy the main sufferers will be the women - rural or urban, poor and exploited - because of gender discrimination in education, lack of time and opportunity for health services and unavailability of wholesome food due to privatisation and subsequent unequal distribution systems.

Causes of poor health in women are many. Most often they are victims of factors beyond their control - like migration and relocation of their family, depletion of natural resources and therefore more effort for search of fuel and fodder and the stresses and strains of income-generating activities. Poor personal health and sexual exploitation are additional factors that handicap women.

Demographic and social changes have negatively affected the status of women in society, and have also led to the loss of the knowledge of traditional practices and home remedies that can ensure good health. Under the myth of becoming modern and sophisticated, women have become more dependent on the market. Privatisation at this stage will only help perpetuate this helpless dependence and victimisation.

SUB-THEME 4: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Co-ordinator: Chhaya Datar
Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
P.B. 8313,
Sion-Trombay Road,
Denonar,
BOMBAY 400 088

Some of the themes that may be discussed are as follows:

- Social security for single women: widows, deserted, divorced, unmarried.
- Shelter needs of single women.
- Social security for aged.
- Social security for children, especially, street children.
- Public Distribution System.
- ESI health scheme.
- Safe and piped drinking water and sanitation.
- Creches, daycare centres, balwadis.
- Pension, Provident Fund.
- Assistance programmes for prostitutes.
- Rehabilitation programme for criminals.

SUB-THEME 5: NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Co-ordinator: Madhu Sarin,
48, Sector 4,
CHANDIGARH 160 001.

Within this sub-theme, it is proposed to focus on the differentiated implications of the new economic policy for women in the following fields:

- (i) Changes in management of land use and ownership (displacement due to large projects, conversion of traditional grazing/common lands to agricultural/other uses, acceleration of land acquisition, etc.).
- (ii) Changes in management of water/marine resources (exploitation of sub-soil/river waters, river/sea fishing, etc.).
- (iii) Changes in management of forest resources (commercialisation of forest produce, reduced access to subsistence goods from forests, etc.).

5. Experiences of other developing economies in S.America, Africa and Asia with regard to women's work and food security, and the implications of these experiences for India.
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- (iii) Changes in management of forest resources (commercialisation of forest produce, reduced access to subsistence goods from forests, etc.).

SUB-THEME 6: VIOLENCE AND THE COMMUNITY

Co-ordinator: Jasjeet Purewal,
B/5197, Safdarjang Enclave,
NEW DELHI 110 029

For the discussion we can divide the subject into three sub-heads which will then allow discussants to take a stand for or against it.

- 1) The NEP: micro and macro policies which will directly affect the status of women, making them more vulnerable to violence. These policies should be examined in the context of economic policies over a period of the last ten years to clarify the argument of whether these are actually new policies.
- 2) Forms of violence against women and their graph for the last ten years. These should include State violence (terrorism by militants and the State responses in context of their effects on women), community violence (especially religious fundamentalism) and domestic violence.
- 3) State management systems for violence, in general, and their effect on women, in particular. The changes in the police procedure and attitudes, the law and legal reforms, State institutions like remand homes and prisons as well as welfare services aimed at counselling and aiding women to cope with violence within and outside their communities will be examined for changes in the same ten year period. How does the economics of a nation influence these systems and how will these recent policies change these influences?
- 4) The autonomous women's movement's perception of the violence against women in this period and the evolution of tools used by the movement to counter the growing violence. What are the linkages that the movement makes with changes in State economic policies? How do the party-affiliated women's wings differ in their handling and perceptions?

METHODOLOGY OF CONDUCTING THE SESSIONS

1. Papers submitted will not be typed out in full and duplicated at the Conference. This was an ecology-friendly decision, intended to save paper. However, all abstracts submitted by the due date to the sub-theme Coordinators and forwarded by them to the General secretary will be printed in a booklet which will be part of the delegate's kit. Late abstracts will not find a place in the publication.

SUB-THEME 7: ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Co-ordinator: Subhash Mendharpurkar,
SUTRA,
JAGJIT NAGAR via Jabbar
Dist. Solan H.P. 173 225

Some important issues for discussion have been identified:

1. Is prohibition a final answer? Is not prohibition a top-down model? Has it succeeded anywhere in the world?
2. How to sustain mass protests? Experience shows that after the mass protests received success, alcohol has either been replaced by drugs or made a back-door entry. Has any social movement sustained the momentum?
3. Have we exhausted all the legal measures against the alcohol trade? Do we have the ability to provide a legal framework? Can we stipulate how the State runs the alcohol trade?

An interdisciplinary study of the questions is called for. We need to develop a common understanding and a common strategy to encounter alcoholism.

SUB-THEME 8: POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Co-ordinator: Susheela Kaushik,
Women's Studies Centre,
University of Delhi,
DELHI 110 007.

The sessions could be divided as follows:

1. Implications for the Constitutional rights and guarantees for women.
2. Impact on participation of women in formal politics.
3. Grass roots politics and power relations, organisations for women's participation; Panchayati Raj participation of women, and women's development.
4. Women's Movement - implications for ideology and functioning; mechanisms for reinforcement; mandate for action.

2. Each coordinator has 3 or 4 sessions (5 at the most) in which to include the main papers and the perspectives. It is proposed to have 3 workshops, in which points of view would be presented and the fourth could be a session to review and reflect on the earlier sessions, with the goal of building theory.

3. Persons/experts from different spheres will be invited to be discussants for separate sessions and a meeting will be convened to screen the received papers and to identify sub-subthemes/concerns expressed in the papers. The discussant chosen for each session will be a key person. This person will be asked to make a summary presentation of the papers (avoiding the sometimes tedious experience of paper reading) and then guide the discussion that ensues.
4. Each Coordinator will identify the experts in her area from three different spheres - academic, policy and action - and invite them to write papers. The designing of the workshops will be shared with one

or two more persons, one drawn from the economic field and the other with a strong theoretical base in the concerned specialization. In this way, at least three persons would constitute the core. Hopefully from this working together, a continuity and consolidation of issues and theoretical constructs will be possible.

5. The methodology of conducting the sessions will vary from sub-theme to sub-theme, depending upon the outcome of the discussants' meeting, or other factors such as number of papers received, number of invited papers etc. The individual Coordinator will decide on the specific format for her/his sessions.

PROCEDURES FOR THE CONFERENCE

All those who would like to participate in the Conference are requested to write to:

1. Rameswari Varma, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore 570 006. Tel: (0821) 22029.
2. S. Anandalakshmy, General Secretary, Indian Association for Women's Studies, 12, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Madras 600 041. Tel : (044) 411395, 415996.

Participation forms for the conference may be obtained from either of the above addresses. Forms have also been enclosed in the copies of the conference announcement, which have already been mailed.

Papers: Those who wish to contribute a paper should send an abstract in English of 200-350 words. The abstract must reach the co-ordinator by March 15, 1993. The papers should be 2500 - 3000 words long. The last date for the submission of paper is April 15, 1993. Those who are not able to submit their papers by the given date must bring 150 copies of their paper. The papers and abstracts are to be sent to the Co-ordinator of the concerned sub-theme. If none the sub-themes appear specifically to be related to the participant's paper, it can be sent to the General Secretary, who will accommodate it in one of the sessions. Papers sent after the last date will not be reproduced or presented.

Besides the papers and discussions, the Association also welcomes posters, pictures, films, skits, songs and dances and any other creative expression. Those who would wish to present such material or need any equipment for this, should communicate the same to the Local Organising Secretary, Rameswari Varma.

Display of Books and materials: Arrangements will be made for the display and sale of books and other

materials. Those who want to avail of this facility may kindly inform the Local Organising Secretary.

Accommodation: Accommodation and food will be provided by the University of Mysore. The food coupons will be distributed at the time of registration. Food will be served from the morning of May 31, 1993 to the evening of June 3, 1993. The mess will, however, open from the morning of May 30th 1993 and close on June 4, 1993. Those who arrive earlier than May 31 or leave later than June 4, 1993 may avail the facility on payment.

It will help efficient arrangement, if the participants send the completed forms as early as possible.

Conference Fees: The registration fee for participating in the Conference is Rs.275/- per head. Students will however, be required to pay only Rs. 150/-. All those who want to participate should identify one particular sub-theme and will get the papers of that sub-theme free as part of the kit. The Conference fee may be sent along with the participant's form to the Local Organising Secretary by M.O. or bank draft, drawn in favour to the **Organising Secretary, Sixth National Conference on Women's Studies, University of Mysore, Mysore** by April 15, 1993. No cheques will be accepted. Advance payment will help in reducing the rush at the last minute.

Spouses: No accommodation will be available for spouses. However, if there are some who want to participate in the conference they should inform the Local Organising Secretary in advance, and register on arrival. The full registration fee must be paid by them.

Membership: All participants would be expected to become members of the Association. This could be done earlier, in order to avoid crowding at the membership desk.

Creche: The Conference will make arrangements for creche facility from the morning of May 31, '93 to the

evening of June 3, '93. Only children below the age of 5 can avail this facility. Requests for this facility should accompany registration form.

Travel Concessions: The Association has applied for train travel concession for the participants. Twenty-five percent concession will be available by II Class mail/express for those who travel more than 300 km. to the Conference and whose total income does not exceed Rs.2,000/- per month, and whose travelling expenses are not borne by the Central or State Government or a Local Body or a Statutory Authority or a Corporation or a Government undertaking or a University. Railway concession certificate will be issued on request by the General Secretary of the Association.

Travel Assistance: Subject to the availability of funds, the Association may be in a position to help participants attend the conference, if they have no other means of travelling. Priority will be given to students and activists with no source of income, on the basis of the bonafide

certificate issued to that effect by the head of their institution. Those who need this may write to the General Secretary for the form.

Arrival: Participants are advised to reach by the evening of May 30, 1993. Details of Train/Air schedules will be supplied by the Local Organising Secretary on request.

On arrival, participants will be received at the airport, railway station or bus stand by volunteers. Participants are requested to look out for them.

Return Reservation: Participants are strongly advised to make their own reservations for return journey. However, if it is not possible to do so, a request accompanied with the necessary amount may be sent to the Organising Secretary by April 12, 1993.

Climate: Mysore will be pleasant in May and June. Participants are, however, requested to bring their own bedding and light woollens.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND WOMEN — A POINT OF VIEW

Joyashree Roy

Department of Economics
Jadavpur University

Introduction:

The recent global environmental issues revolve around the search for cause and effects of pollution of the 'natural environment', a gift of the nature. The gravity of the situation has been focused upon by the World Bank in its 'World Development Report' of 1992. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the flora and fauna that adds to the ecological, and hence the natural, balance have been altered adversely by a wide variety of human activities being practiced over centuries. Unless these 'negative links' of the developmental activities are checked we will not be in a position to sustain our process of development for the generations to come. In this context, to work on the 'positive links', i.e., to maintain the right proportion of carbon-dioxide in the air, to control the flow of effluents from industries into the water, to minimise deafening sound from horns blown by the various modes of transport, to prevent soil erosion, deforestation, salinization of irrigated land, are the responsibilities of all the members of the present generation, irrespective of gender and class, since all are the victims of this global problem. However, though there is general global concern over carbon emission, depletion of stratospheric ozone,

photochemical smog, acid rain, hazardous wastes, etc., little or no attention has been paid so far to the specificity of the problem in the less developed countries. World Development Report (1992) has noted down a few more life threatening immediate environmental problems facing the developing countries :—

- (1) unsafe water
- (2) inadequate sanitation
- (3) indoor smoke from cooking fuels
- (4) outdoor smoke from coal burning.

Water Quality- Environment- Women:

Problem of unsafe water arises from the lack of adequate provision for sanitation facilities in less developed, overpopulated countries. Poverty is one of the reasons for low investment in private sanitation. Bad sanitation results in increasing human sewage in the ponds, rivers etc., which has given rise to the problem of contamination of water. World Bank (1992) reports the death of 2 million children from diarrheal diseases — typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, etc. — and records 900 million cases of incidence each year in the less developed

countries. Water from ponds, rivers, canals etc. with 'open access' are used largely by the poor families for domestic activities such as cleaning and washing, bathing, cooking and at times drinking as well. These activities do not fall in the "inside" subsistence oriented nonmonetised categories where female workers dominate, as this category is the single largest female occupation in the conventionally defined labour force. While the participation of men in this mode of work tapers off sharply after age 20, a large proportion of the female work force continues as unpaid family workers throughout these lines (WB 1991).

Thus, to reduce water borne diseases and to keep the ponds and rivers free from contamination, female population has a very crucial role to play. Educating them to make them aware of the environmental problem is a basic necessity. If we go by the contention of the World Bank (1992), then well informed citizens, specially women, will be in a better position to put pressure on government to take necessary steps towards improvement in sanitation and water supply system. How the latter directly enhances the productivity of the female population can be illustrated by an example from Mozambique. In Mozambique a few projects have succeeded in reducing the time required by the female members of the family to fetch water for domestic purposes from 120 minutes a day to 25 minutes a day (World Development Report 1992). The time saved is now spent in other productive activities, viz. in farming, rearing of domestic animals, child care, etc. Women who are engaged in fetching water for their home spend, on an average, 15 percent of their total time on this chore. Many women in Africa spend more than two hours a day fetching water. In a typical block of Darjeeling district 24 hrs. are spent everyday for the same work (Survey'92). In Jakarta an amount equivalent to 1 percent of city's GDP is spent each year in boiling water. All these establish the relevance of the government intervention in a less developed country like India in building up of the water works system and adequate sanitation facilities. 'Polluters pay' principle may fail to attain the goal in a country where the families do not have enough purchasing power to procure one square meal a day and 31% of the population live below the poverty line.

Residential fuel use pattern-environment-women :

To highlight the nexus between environment and women, we quote two findings to present the problem in its right perspective. A World Bank study (1991) has shown that when women who collect fuel and food or work in dairy, poultry or kitchen garden are included with those in the conventionally defined labour force, women's work participation rate totals 51% in India's economy. Women are the chief fuel collectors for the Indian households, and one important fuel source is forests. To quote the World Bank's (1992) concern, for those hundreds of millions of the World's poorer citizens, smoke and fumes

from indoor use of biomass fuel (wood, straw and dung) for cooking in unventilated rooms, pose much greater health risks than any outdoor pollution. Women and children suffer most from this form of pollution and its effect on health is often equivalent to that of smoking several packs of cigarettes a day. Women, unconsciously or consciously, are polluters of the environment in two ways :—

1. directly by using the firewood in traditional chulha (oven) for cooking, they pollute the indoor air and
2. indirectly by using fuelwood, they lead to deforestation of forests and add to the global problem.

A number of surveys (1986, 1992) on energy use pattern in certain typical villages (Sandeskhali 1986, Gorubathan 1992) have shown that 100% of the rural poor families (annual income less than rupees 12 thousand) and 80 - 90% of the rural rich families (annual income above rupees 12 thousand) consume fuel wood to meet their cooking fuel demand in traditional chulha. Choice of a fuel type for cooking is very much cooking appliance dependent. The cost effectiveness of the U-shaped traditional chulha in Indian household sector (Das et al 1990) originates from the following realities of the existing economic system :—

- (1) Zero opportunity cost for the labour (women) engaged in cooking, (2) absence of market for twigs, leaves, etc., (3) zero opportunity cost for the labour of women/children engaged in collection of twigs, etc., (4) Lack of awareness about health hazards and (5) lack of full information about the new technologies.

Whatever may be the logic behind the use of firewood in traditional chulha, the fact is that 400 - 700 million-people, mainly women and children in the rural areas, are affected by "smoky indoor air". According to the World Development Report (1992), studies measuring biomass smoke in household kitchens in poor rural areas have found SPM (suspended particular matter) levels exceeding by several orders of magnitude, the safe levels of WHO guidelines. Meal preparation exposes those doing the work to such levels for several hours a day. The smoke contributes to acute respiratory infections that even cause death in many cases. Recurrent episodes of such infections lead to permanent lung damage that shows up in adults as chronic bronchitis emphysema, contributing to heart failures. Studies have shown that the women who are exposed to such smoke suffer from abnormally high levels of chronic respiratory disease. Survey in Gorubathan (1992) has shown the awareness of the families about the sufferings of their female members from chronic bronchitis, asthma and eye diseases. They have also reported their awareness about rapid deforestation and the inconveniences they face in terms of travelling long distances by women and children to collect firewood. Some of them have shown interest

in going to the nearest town/city to collect information about new technology, but the inconvenience reported was loss of wage on the part of the male member during his absence. A large number of families have explained their present preference pattern through their lack of purchasing power. On inquiry it has also been observed that even if an alternative new technology is provided at zero private cost, lack of knowledge of the user (female member of the family) would act as a barrier to its adoption.

All these highlight few important aspects :—

- i) it is the population who, on health consideration should take the initiative to revolutionise the cooking system.
- ii) training programmes to disseminate the necessary information should involve the female population directly and the demonstration programmes should be conducted on the spot for them.
- iii) women should be made aware of the economic cost and social cost (loss of their productive capacity, deforestation) of their fuel wood collection activity so that they, on their own, take up afforestation programme or persuade the relevant authority to do the same to raise their productivity.

Although the possession of a particular type of appliance implies a particular level of initial capital investment, and hence the level of household income, findings by Sathaye and Tyler (1991) stresses on the role of women in this context. The study on urban energy use by Sathaye and Tyler (1991) has shown 'household fuel choice is dictated more by women's income and time available for cooking than other variables.'

Conclusion:

Debate on environmental issues, both in its generality and specificity, should go on in its own right and the breadth of this field of investigation should be stretched further. Role women in the context of environmental issues have rarely been researched in its proper perspective. This, in fact, has not only led to myopic vision of the policy makers about the problem but has also deterred the adoption of many environment friendly policies. In this context, one can recall the suggestion of the Planning Commission in its Seventh Plan Report (1985) for increasing the use of coal in the domestic sector to reduce the burden on oil. It shows how the conservation aspect dominated the choice of policy.

Although it is true that degradation of natural environment threatens the life of all without any gender bias, there is no denying that it is the children of today,

representatives of future generation, who are the worst sufferers. Moreover, it will also not be a distortion of fact to say that within the social environment it is the mother (invariably in all the developing countries like India) and/or any other woman on whom rests the sole responsibility of child care (child health). This aspect highlights the special role of women in the context of the current environmental issue. In fact, not only the child health, but, family health is looked after by the female members by way of maintaining domestic hygiene. There is however, a direct link between domestic hygiene and female education - while the latter is determined to a very large extent by the economic condition. Hence, among other things (viz pollution tax on mechanised vehicles, industries, private individuals) equally desirable policy tools in wider perspective may be increased investment on female education, provision of wage employment for the women - rural women in particular. This establishes that environmental considerations need to be inherent to policymaking and not added as an afterthought.

References :

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2. Sathaye J. and S. Tyler (1991). "Urban Energy Use : Saturation and Fuel Transition in the Developing Countries." Energy Analysis Programme, 1990 Annual Report, Applied Science Division. Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, January 1992, pp. 37.
3. School of Energy Studies (1986) "Survey Report and Action Plan Frame for Sandeshkhali - I, West Bengal, Prepared by School of Energy Studies, Jadavpur University. Integrated Rural Energy Programme, sponsored by Planning Commission, Govt. of India and Science and Technology Committee, Department of Development and Planning, Govt. of West Bengal.
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5. The World Bank, (1991), Gender and Poverty in India, A World Bank Country Study, Washington D.C.
6. The World Bank (1992), World Development Report, 1992. Development and the Environment, Oxford University Press.

I sincerely acknowledge the valuable discussions on various occasions with Dr. Jaba Guha, Head of the Department, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Calcutta.

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEVAKI JAIN has been elected President of IAWS with effect from Jan. 21. 1993.

MAITHREYI KRISHNARAJ who was holding that office earlier, had accepted a faculty position at the I.S.S., The Hague, and found that her responsibilities there would not permit her to attend the IAWS Sixth National Conference in 1993.

ELECTION NOTICE

The membership list, valid as on 30.4.93, will be the electorate for the next EC elections. Our present term of membership is April 1 to March 31. Members, whose annual membership will automatically get terminated on March 31st, are requested to pay their membership for 1993-94, before April 30, 1993.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE IAWS currently consists of the following members :

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Devaki Jain | President |
| 2. | Dr. Amita Verma | Vice-President |
| 3. | Dr. S. Anandalakshmy | General Secretary |
| 4. | Ms. C. P. Sujaya | Jt. Secretary |
| 5. | Dr. Zarina Bhatta | Treasurer |
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