

Inside

News Executive Committee of IAWS	2-3
Introducing the new EC members (Profile)	4-5
Report of the 8th National Conference of IAWS, Pune	6
Resolutions at the Conference	7
IAWS Conference Report of Plenary Ecology and Economy	8-9
Report on Fact Finding Team on Urban Displacement in Baroda	10
Information	11-12

EDITORIAL BOARD

Geetanjali Gangoli
Chhaya Datar
Divya Pandey
Maithreyi Krishnaraj

IAWS CENTRAL OFFICE

Kalpana Kannabiran
General Secretary
Asmita, 10-3-96, Plot 283, 4th Floor
Street 6, Teacher's Colony,
East Marredpally,
Secunderabad-500 026

Editor's Note

Being entrusted with the task of editing the IAWS newsletter is an awesome task and a great responsibility. But preparing the newsletter, though a lot of hard work, proved quite interesting!

There are some things of consequence that I would like to share with you. One, the elections of the new Executive Committee of the IAWS. We took over from the old EC on 3rd June, the day after the VIII National Conference of Women's Studies (30 May-2 June 1998) in Pune. In the meeting, the members present unanimously elected the office bearers. The names and addresses of the EC members and the office bearers are in this newsletter, as are some details about them-an informal "CV"! The new General Secretary, Kalpana Kannabiran, being located in Secunderabad, the IAWS office has shifted from Mumbai to Secunderabad. Please note the new address.

This issue contains a short report of the Pune conference and the report of the plenary on ecology and economy. In the forthcoming issues, we will carry reports of the other plenaries as well as of the sub themes.

Secondly, I would like to request all of you to use this newsletter as *your* space. That means, that you must communicate with us about your responses to the newsletter, and write in contributions. Send us:

- * **analytical reports** of workshops, seminars, meetings. (700 words)
- * **announcements** of seminars, workshops, courses, etc.
- * **reviews** of recent works in women's studies. (approx. 700 words)
- * poems, songs
- * **letters** (approx. 300 words)

Send all the newsletter material to :

Geetanjali Gangoli
Flat No. 1 "Neelam"
14th B Road Khar
Mumbai-400 052

We hope that you will respond so that this newsletter will be different from any other!



NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IAWS

June 1998- May 2000

Vina Mazumdar

President

Centre for Women's Development Studies

25 Bhai Vir Singh Marg

New Delhi-110 001

Rama Melkhote

Vice President

Anveshi

04 BI Osmania University Campus

Tarnaka

Hyderabad-500 029

Kalpana Kannabiran

General Secretary

Asmita,

10-3-96, Plot 283, 4th Floor

Street 6, Teacher's Colony,

East Marredpally,

Secunderabad-500 026

Bina Srinivasan

Joint Secretary

Swashraya,

C/O Ravi Enterprises

Near Manek Rao Akhara

Dandia Bazaar

Baroda-390 001

Divya Pandey

Treasurer

21 Gautam Darshan

Off J P Road

Seven Bungalows

Andheri

Mumbai-400 052

Geetanjali Gangoli

Editor

Flat No. 1 "Neelam"

14th B Road Khar

Mumbai-400 052

Nirmala Banerji

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences

10 Lake Terrace

Calcutta- 700 029

EDITORIAL BOARD

Geetanjali Gangoli

Divya Pandey

Nirmala Banerji

IAWS CENTRAL OFFICE

Nirmala Banerji

10 Lake Terrace

Calcutta-700 029

Bina Aggarwal
111 Golf Links
New Delhi-110 003

Kamla Bhasin
Food and Agriculture Organisation
55 Max Mueller Marg
New Delhi-110 003

Rohini Gawankar
304 Shiv Prabha
R K Vaidya Marg
Dadar
Mumbai-400 028

Maitreyi Krishna Raj
Flat 53-58 Jeevan Bima Nagar
A 6/3 Borivali West
Mumbai- 400 103

Pam Rajput
Department of Political Science
Punjab University
Chandigarh-160 014

Seema Sakhare
Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad
44 Justice Kotwal Nagar
Pratap Nagar Ring Road
Nagpur: 440 022

Chhaya Datar
7 Manjira, Makarand Society
Veer Savarkar Marg,
Mahim
Mumbai 400 016

Nandini Upreti
BB7 Anita Colony
Bajaj Nagar
Jaipur

Jayshree Vencatesan
MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
3rd Cross, Institutional Area
Taramani
Chennai- 600 113

Vatika Sibal
214, Nalini Apartments
Solapur Road
Pune 411 001

INTRODUCING THE NEW EC MEMBERS



Vina Mazumdar

Vina Mazumdar has been educated in Calcutta and Oxford. She has been a teacher of Political Science; Member, UGC Secretariat; Member Secretary, Committee on the Status of Women in India; director of women's Studies, ICSSR; Founder Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies; National Fellow, ICSSR; Member, International Independent commission on Population and Quality of Life; Member, Standing Committee on Women's Studies; UGC. Currently, Chairperson, Centre for Women's Development Centre; New Delhi and the Indian Association for Women's Studies. Recipient of various international awards for innovative leadership in women and development.

Kalpana Kannabiran

Kalpana Kannabiran has worked for her doctoral dissertation on a social history of temple women in Madras Presidency. She is a founder member and the President of Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Secunderabad. She is currently working on a South Asian Regional Research Project on

women and governance. She is Co- Director of the Summer School in Women's Studies.

Rama Melkhote

Rama Melkhote is the President of Anveshi Resource Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad.

She has taught Political Science for 27 years and guides MPhil and Ph.D. students and research projects at the Centre for Area Studies, Osmania University.

She has written several books and contributes to academic journals such as Africa Quarterly, Signs, Economic and Political Weekly, Africa Newsletter. She has participated in many seminars in India and abroad.

She stays in Hyderabad.

Geetanjali Gangoli

Geetanjali Gangoli is a free lance journalist and researcher, currently involved with completing a Ph.D. from the Department of History, University of Delhi. She has written articles and papers in several newspapers and journals on women's issues, especially legal provisions and reforms. She has been selected as a Panos Fellow under the Panos Reproductive Health Fellowship Scheme, 1998.

She volunteers for the Forum Against Oppression of Women, Mumbai.

Bina Srinivasan

Bina Srinivasan works with Swashraya, a Baroda based women's group. She has been active with the Narmada Bachao Andolan, and is presently

working on the issue of women and displacement. She has worked on a project on urban displacement and women with Vikas Adhyan Kendra, Mumbai.

She has written extensively in journals and newspapers on a range of women's issues. She has been a part of the National Coordination Committee of the National women's Movement Conference for the last three conferences.

She divides her time between Baroda and Bangalore.

Chhaya Datar

Chhaya Datar is a reader and the head of the Unit for Women's Studies at Tata Institute for Social Sciences, Mumbai. She is active in the Association for Women's Studies both at the national and the local level. She is a member of a standing committee for women's studies by the University Grants Commission of India to monitor the Women's Studies Centres in different universities.

She has been active in the women's movement, and is the founder member of Stree Mukti Sanghatana. She has been associated with Stree Uvach (Women Speak). She has written several books and articles in English and Marathi.

Kamla Bhasin

Kamla Bhasin, a social scientist by training, works with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN since 1976. Presently, she is the coordinator of the FAO- NGO South

Asia Programme promoting sustainable agriculture and women's empowerment.

She has founded and is a member of several women's groups and voluntary organisations, including some regional and international networks. She has written extensively on issues ranging from development to media to women's empowerment. She has written several songs for the women's movement and song books for children.

She stays in New Delhi.

Divya Pandey

Divya Pandey has retired recently as a reader from the Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT University, Mumbai. Her areas of research have been women's health, work, development issues and the empowerment of women. She has been associated with several research projects in the field of social demography and has worked as a senior research associate in the Population Research Centre, MS University, Baroda. She has edited the newsletter of the RCWS during her tenure there.

At present, she is a consultant to the Sound and Picture Archives for Research on Women (SPARROW) in Mumbai. SPARROW is devoted to the use of oral history and pictorial material for research on women.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAWS,

PUNE. 30th May-2 June 1998



"Survival And Strategy" - Challenges to Women Studies

The eighth conference of the IAWS was held in Pune at the SNDT University Campus between 30th May-2 June 1998, in collaboration with the Maharashtra Stree Abhyas Vidyapeeth. The Conference focused on the broad theme of "Survival and strategy"- Challenges to Women's Studies. There were 4 plenary sessions on the following themes: sustainable livelihood for all v. profits for a few; economy and ecology; our households, ourselves; culture and resistance.

The panel speakers included distinguished academics, well known human rights activists, and scientists. Several foreign delegates from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago attended the conference.

The afternoons were devoted to discussions on the ten sub themes. The Comet Media Foundation, Mumbai organised Stree Vividha, a mela of handicrafts by women. This was open to visitors from the city.

One morning, the delegates visited Jyotiba Phule's house and Savitri Phule's statue. There was an evening of cultural activities: a one act play enacted by Sushama Deshpande on the life of Savitri Phule, called "Vyay me Savitri boltye" followed by feminist bandishes by Neela Bhagwat. Another evening was devoted to experimental films by women directors housed in the National Film Archives of India.

The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Marriamma Vergese, Vice Chancellor, SNDT University.

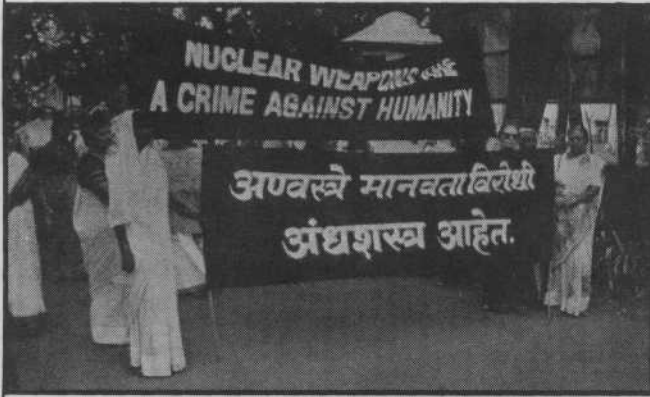
The IAWS members organised a silent march through the city of Pune on the evening of 1 June to protest against the recent nuclear tests in South Asia. A resolution was passed condemning the tests. The IAWS unanimously passed another resolution condemning various cases of violence against women in Rajasthan.

Profile of Participants at the Conference

INDIAN STATES & Other Countries	PARTICIPANTS			
	Total	Female	Male	No Attendance
Andhra Pradesh	52	51		1
Assam	3	3	0	0
Bihar	8	7	1	0
Delhi	45	41	4	0
Goa	1	1	0	0
Gujrat	47	43	4	0
Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0
Karnataka	49	48	1	0
Kerala	9	9	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	0	0
Maharashtra	281	260	15	6
Manipur	1	0	1	0
Orissa	4	3	1	0
Pondicherry	3	2	1	0
Punjab	6	4	0	2
Rajasthan	21	18	3	0
Tamilnadu	18	18	0	0
Uttar P Pradesh	20	20	0	0
West Bengal	20	20	0	0
Sub Total = India	593	552	32	9

OTHER COUNTRIES	PARTICIPANTS			
	Total	Female	Male	No Attendance
Nepal	4	4	0	0
Pakistan	1	1	0	0
Bangladesh	3	3	0	0
Sri Lanka	7	7	0	0
Netherlands	1	1	0	0
England	2	2	0	0
Norway	1	1	0	0
Canada	2	2	0	0
USA	1	1	0	0
Sub Total = Members Abroad	22	22	0	0

RESOLUTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS



The members of the IAWS express our strong condemnation of the nuclear tests in the South Asian sub continent. We oppose these tests on moral, economic and ecological grounds. These actions will unavoidably trigger off an accelerated arms race in South Asia and worsen the militarist mind set and communal tensions within our countries.

We condemn the other five nuclear powers and their duplicity and double standards. They are the real profiteers of violence and armaments.

We appeal to the governments of India and Pakistan to impose an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests, to cap the nuclear programmes and desist from all chauvinistic, aggressive postures.

We appeal to the scientists to develop and use science for the benefit of humanity and not for its destruction.

We believe that the new millennium needs love not violence, peace nor war, cooperation not competition, and the creation of sustainable livelihood, not the mindless and destructive pursuit of profit.

RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The participants of the Eighth IAWS conference held at Pune between May 30- 1 June 1998 are deeply concerned about the growing incidence of extreme forms of violence against women all over the country.

In particular, the Conference condemns the gang rape on the premises of a hostel in Rajasthan University Campus at Jaipur. The victim has been a target of sexual exploitation and blackmail for the past seven years. The majority of the culprits named by her have not been arrested even after nine months. It is apparent that they are influential and politically committed individuals who are being shielded by the people in power. The Conference further protests against the Rajasthan Government for succumbing to powerful community leaders in the Lokendra Muni case and adversely influencing the investigation by demoralising the police.

Such a response of the Government to these and other cases of violence against women throughout the country has created a high degree of insecurity and vulnerability for them.

The IAWS conference urges each and every state government and particularly that of Rajasthan to seriously take steps to protect the human rights of women and restore their sense of security.

ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY: PLENARY SESSION

ON 31 MAY 1998.

The plenary session on ecology and economy on 31st May 1998 was chaired by Chhaya Datar. We present an edited version of the three presentations made during the plenary.

The first speaker was Gabrielle Dietrich. She has been a part of the Women's Movement and is the convenor of the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM). She was followed by Subodh Wagle, an activist and the director of the Indian Institute of Political Economy. Next was M C Mehta, legal activist and winner of the Magasaysay Award. Finally was Sarat Fernando, an activist and researcher from Sri Lanka. What follows are excerpts from their presentations

Gabrielle Dietrich, *Perspectives and Responses from the Women's Movement and Women's Studies*

I am expected to speak on the economy, the ecology and women's studies. But I can not do that without speaking of the activities of the women's movement.

Sustainable livelihoods and the pursuit of profits is the key issue as far as ecology is concerned. We need to re organise various sectors so that women can find a place in it, the communities can survive and nature too can survive.

Maria Mies has worked out the connection between patriarchy and accumulation on a world scale. This includes the interconnection between patriarchy, science and technology and colonialism. Many feminists, however, do not relish being reduced to feminine principles. I would still say, however, that there are connections between bio technology, the control by states and MNCs of women's reproductive rights and neo- fascism.

In all this, public action and intervention is

crucial. New skills in constructive work are needed.

Another issue that concerns me is the women's movements understanding of violence. We have dealt with many kinds of violence, including rape, sexual harassment, communal violence. However, we have still been taken aback by the recent nuclear testing.

I want to make a connection between caste, communalism and the environment. Violence and the access to natural resources are mediated by class, patriarchy and caste.

Subodh Wagle, *Destruction of Rural Livelihoods and the Marginalisation of Women.*

I am going to talk about the destruction of rural livelihoods and the marginalisation of rural women. The two developments are linked to each other.

Rural livelihood has three distinguishing features. Livelihood needs are restricted to food, fodder, timber, and fibre. For the rural poor, livelihood needs are met through a range of activities. These include: Production of commodities, collection from the community, and barter and mutual exchange of commodities. In rural societies, the burden of providing livelihood falls on women. Hence, I use the terms destruction of rural livelihoods and marginalisation of rural women as synonymous terms.

Among the processes that lead to rural poverty are mainstream development. Impoverishment, displacement of the poor due to projects like the Narmada Dam and Enron, environmental degradation are some of the results of development. But the mainstream responds to this problem with apathy and denial of the problem itself.

To sum up, the destruction of rural livelihoods and the marginalisation of rural women seem to be rooted in the mainstream development



patterns. We have to create alternative development models. The new model has to be created keeping livelihood at the centre.

M C Mehta, *Ecology and Economy and the Role of Women*

After 50 years of independence, we are facing the pollution of the rivers and the lakes. The ground water table is also going down. In many parts of the country, people are forced to drink water with arsenic.

Here, even milk is polluted. A few months ago, some women from UP came and told me how they found mercury in the milk that they use.

We deprive the rural masses only because we have the support of the Press and the media to compel the government to heed what we say. Chemical industries set up by the Macs have created havoc by polluting many areas.

My suggestion is that we should have a Natural Resources Council in the country to identify the sources that we have, how to preserve them, and how best to use them. We need to retain what we have, for the future, for tomorrow. Otherwise, we can only think of a bleak future for the coming generations.

Sara Freehand, *Survival in Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka is one of the few countries which has managed to live in harmony with nature. In the 18th century, even the most ordinary people in villages were doctors, who used forest products to cure themselves.

Till the 1970s, Sri Lanka had less poverty, less income disparities, less malnutrition and less violence than the rest of South Asia. The Sri Lanka government adopted the policies of market led growth in 1977, which led to drastic changes. Poverty, income disparities, malnutrition increased substantially. Between 1988-90, the youth of the country took up arms.

Sri Lanka is fighting for survival. This fight is linked to the right to use our ecology and environment.- our water, trees, soils, seas, plants and animals— in a “sustainable” manner, i.e., in a manner that respects life and survival for all. I believe that women can play an important role in the struggle to realise our dreams. We believe that we can totally eliminate poverty if we can use natural resources rationally. We need the power of women in our struggle. We need your help in our struggle for survival.

REPORT OF FACT FINDING TEAM ON URBAN DISPLACEMENT IN BARODA.

JUNE 1998

Bina Srinivasan, Joint Secretary, IAWS, was part of the organising team for a fact finding team in Baroda in June 1998, which was constituted to look into the demolitions conducted by the Vadodara Municipal Committee over the past few months. The fact finding team was made up of lawyers and representatives of voluntary organisations from Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Baroda.

The team found that more than 10,000 men, women and children were affected by the demolitions. The affected people were mostly casual laborers, hand cart pullers, vegetable vendors, rag pickers, domestic workers, construction workers. Most of the demolished bastees were over 20 years old. The team found that the rationale for evictions was that the bastees occupied what is called "prime land".



The demolitions not only displaced men, women and children from their sources of livelihood, it also took them away from schools and health care facilities. Women were specifically affected by the evictions, since the task of reconstruction falls on women. Besides, they also have to take care of their children when they are rendered homeless.

The team found that the evictions were illegal, as the residents of the bastees were not given adequate notice before the evictions. A Gujarat High Court order states that giving notice prior to eviction is mandatory. The evictions also constitute human rights violations of people living in the bastees.

The team recommends that a comprehensive urban policy be formulated in consultation with residents of bastees, voluntary organisations and town planning experts. The policy should be based on the premise that the right to life is connected to the right to live with dignity, and the right to shelter is connected to the right to livelihood.

Times of India 26 June 1998

SLUMS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE

Vadodara may not find it easy to beat Mumbai in Ranji Trophy. Still, they beat them in one aspect - conditions in slums, says nearly a dozen organisations from Gujarat and Maharashtra. Vadodara's 450 - odd slums are dirtier and more miserable than Dharavi, they claim.

Lawyers and representative of several voluntary organisations and human rights groups from Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Vadodara found serious violation of human rights in these slums. The makeshift camps and colonies were demolished by the municipal corporation without rehabilitation and relocation or even providing drinking water and electricity.

The fact-finding mission organised by Swashraya and Vikas-Shehri Sampad Kendra and consisting of several city-based social organisations visited areas like the infamous Dholikui in Makarpura, Ambajinagar in GIDC,

settlements of Ganeshnagar in Pratapnagar, Chikowadi on Jethalpur Road, Sonianagar and Ambedkarnagar slums in Chhani. The team members claim at least 10,000 slum dwellers are affected by the recent demolition drive of the VMC.

On the other hand, Mayor Ratilal Desai told Baroda Times that such organisations were ill-equipped for fact finding activities. "They are anti-administration and have charged us with not providing civic amenities in slums. In fact, facts should be dug out on these organisations. They are up to all kinds of illegal activities," Desai alleged.

The facts, however, are there for all to see. Ganeshnagar has some 4,000 residents with only three water taps and one hand pump. In Priyanka Gandhi Nagar, a relocation site, there is no source for portable water for the 146

families, says Rohit Prajapati, an activist. Water and electricity in Chikowadi, Ajwa and Bhuri Talavdi were cut off prior to the demolitions. "The entire process of resettlement on VMC acquired land is ridden with problems," says NBA's Dharmadhikary.

"Beggars can not be choosers." the adage sounds true as many slums dwellers have been given disputed lands. "Thought VMC has accepted these facts, the authorities are busy formulating a strategy to counter the allegations. The mayor said hue and cry by NGOs about 700 slums is a farcical-exercise.

Out of 3,000 households shifted from various parts of the city, only 500 have pucca houses. 15 to 20 years after being relocated. Interestingly, the police station itself is Sayaji Park is in ankle deep rain water.

Ravi S Jha



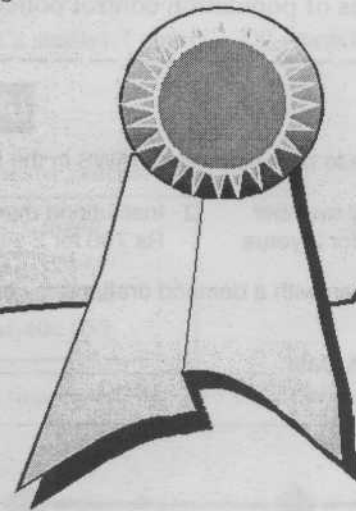
CERTIFICATE COURSE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT University, Mumbai, conducts a Certificate Course in Women's Studies every year. The course is designed to enable the student to develop a broad overview of the evolution of contemporary feminism and the movement towards greater empowerment. The course will equip the student with a critical insight into understanding the challenges for growth and changes in the situation in India.

It is a part time course for the duration of one year. Since women's studies is an interdisciplinary subject, the course is open to graduates in any discipline of a recognised university with at least a II nd Class at the degree examination. Working women are encouraged to apply. For Further inquiries, contact:

Research Centre for Women's Studies

SNDT Women's University,
Sir Vithaldas Vidyavihar Juhu Campus
Mumbai 400 049
Tel: 022-612 6648, 612 8462, 612-8493
Ext. 227/ 297/ 298.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS AND ARTICLES

re/productions is an on-line journal dedicated to disseminating work by scholars, activists, and organisations exploring discourses of reproductive health and rights in South Asia. The journal focuses on expanding understandings of 'health' and on making connections with people and issues outside the traditional scope of public health and reproductive rights in the region.



We focus on these issues

- * History of reproductive health and rights movements in South Asia
- * the impact of donor funding on reproductive health policies
- * social movements around health
- * the development of and the ethical implications of reproductive health technologies
- * alternative approaches to the body and health
- * the politics of sexualities
- * critiques of population control policies

Major features of re/productions include:

The body: this section features articles and essays reflecting new critical directions in thinking about reproductive health.

Best of the contemporary presses: reprints of selected work from academic and small presses

Young scholars section: select work from young scholars in South Asia.

Reviews: of new and old works, especially those from small presses

Letters to the editor: a space to raise questions and continue debates

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Please send submissions to

SUSHMA JOSHI

PO BOX 140

Kathmandu

Nepal.

Email address: harvard @ mos.com.np

Copyrights remain with the author.

IAWS MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to be a member of IAWS in the following category (please tick appropriate category)

- Ordinary member
 Institutional member
 Student member
 Life member
 Corporate member
 Rs 100 for 2 years
 Rs 700 for 2 years
 Rs 50 for 2 years
 Rs 500
 Rs 5000

I enclose herewith a demand draft/money order of Rs _____ made out to the Indian Association of Women's Studies.

Signature & Date _____

Address _____

Name : _____
(Please print)

Education : _____

Occupation _____

(Please give pin code and phone number, if any)

Please fill in, detach and mail to :

Rohini Gawankar, Treasurer, IAWS, Shiv Prabha, 304 R. K. Vaidya Road, Dadar West, Mumbai - 400 028.