

The IAWS and the RCWS organized a Seminar and a Peer Review Workshop on the 16th and 17th of Feb 2010 at the RCWS in Mumbai on the theme of *Gender and Science*.

We started with the national seminar on '*Women in/ and Science: Taking Stock*' on the 16th morning. This was followed by a Peer Review Workshop '*Transforming Science: Feminist Perspectives*' for a volume to be edited by Sumi Krishna and Gita Chadha.

The experiences of women in science are crucial to the development of feminist/women studies in and of science. Though the latter addresses wider issues of the relationship between women and science, it is eventually women in science who will most effectively be able to address the issues of underrepresentation and undervaluation of women in science. More importantly, in recent years, women scientists too have begun questioning and challenging the very 'nature' of science and its so called gender neutrality, a critique which is associated with the women's studies of science.

As in other fields, women in science and the women's studies scholars of science have various areas of conflict and friction, emerging out of genuine problems of language on the one hand and a difference in purpose on the other. While women in science feel that the women's studies scholars overlook the unique character of science, carrying their criticism to an extreme, women's studies scholars argue that women in science are not sufficiently critical of and proactive in transforming science, its practice and culture. The present seminar aims at building a bridge between the two in order to begin a dialogue. This aim is contextualized within the broader aim to develop and strengthen linkages between women in science, a feminist scholarship of science and the women's movements.

The participants included, among others, Anita Ghai, a psychologist and the President of IAWS; RCWS Director Veena Poonacha and Meena Gopal, sociologists who studied women in science for the Indian National Science Academy; Maitreyi Krishnaraj, former Director of RCWS and author of an early book on women and science in India; Sumi Krishna, independent researcher and past president of the IAWS; sociologist and science studies scholar Gita Chadha of the RCWS; Chayanika Shah of FORUM and LABIA, and leading scientists: namely, theoretical physicist Anita Mehta (Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata); mathematician and National Knowledge Commission Member Sujata Ramdorai and biologist Vidita Vaidya, both at TIFR.

The speakers shared their experiences and trajectories into science. We discussed questions related to women practitioners of science; how science represents gender; and the interface of feminism and science. The discussions that followed raised important questions on the need to develop science criticism from a feminist perspective, at the level of epistemology and practice. These issues were also discussed in the six peer review sessions that followed.

The Peer Review Workshop, based on earlier IAWS regional and national conferences based in Bangalore and Lucknow, critically discussed twenty five working papers in the areas of philosophy, history, sociology, psychology of science; the pedagogy and practice in veterinary science, soil management, water management and health; science fiction and case histories of women pioneers in medicine..

The Peer Review Workshop aimed at sharpening the arguments in every paper and marking the emergent trends in feminist science criticism. The peer Review sessions witnessed vibrant discussions on every paper and the mood was to nurture each others intellectual efforts. The volume will be the first of its kind from India.