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FINRRAGE
UBINIG

**International Conference On
Reproductive And Genetic Engineering
And Women's Reproductive Health**

**March 18-25, 1989
BARD, Kotbari, Comilla
BANGLADESH**

18/3/89

MARIA MIES: 'What unites & what divides women from the North and the South in the field of reproduction'

Divisions betn. human beings & nature; mind and matter, body and spirit - all similar to divisions within humans.

Women's campaign began with violence; - defining body politics from our side - health centres, shelters & so on. opened. Struggle against violence - common to all. May be ideologically divided but utopia is shared & so is struggle.

'Reproductive autonomy' / 'self determination'

Initial demands: antenatalist addressed to scientists/state viz. contraception, abortion etc - mainly from N.

In S same demands raised by population experts.

Slogans of N might be used against women of South by population experts - a fear expressed which has come true. Easy to take demands ^{out} of our context "we do not answer question of who controls our body.

Cannot ask for equal reproductive rights for all women & expect it to come from development.

Our difference not in culture, but contradictory relation betn. peoples of N & S.

So we are connected & yet divided but by whom?

S women not needed as 'breeders' whereas 'N' women are.

Anti-natalist techno → women of S

Pro-natalist " → women of N

Capitalism: devalued reproductive work of middle class women of N. Rise of support from husbands
Fall to subservient position, as persons

Development based on defn of women as housewives.

Defn as mothers & housewives leads to women accepting low 'productive' work so that middle class women of N can buy cheaply the home based products of women of S.

⇒ World Bank has been investing in women.

So behind all NRT & G.E. is business by all multinationals and others.

Rationalised production now rationalise reproduction.

Firestone: 'artificial womb' as 'the liberation'.

Assumption of human's domination over nature

Women with their 'wild fertility' were part of nature and had to be controlled by science & technology.

⇒ Our body was made out to be our enemy.

Alongwith is the philosophy of 'catching up' - something good for people in N then trickles down to S.

- Chernobyl another shock leading to critique of progress and development through science and technology
- further consolidated with new wonders of R.T.
- Power to produce treated as sickness.

- Increase in infertility due to sc. & techno. again.

• Separating women from their own bodies

Questioned human costs for this progress & technology

- robbing dignity & integrity

• also using women's bodies of S - for surrogacy, IVF etc

∴ root causes are not touched by these technologies

- Capitalism & Patriarchy that divide us but common struggle would be what would unite us.

2. FARIDA AKHTER: 'On the question of reproductive rights' - a personal reflection.

- Experience of collective writing
- We might not agree but we have to understand differences on the basis of our social reality. Will lead to our understanding of differences in reality which we could change to create a common, uniform reality towards which we could all work.

What do we mean by reproductive right?

I am also not sure what I mean when I use it.
Need to be critical about words that we use.

Words should be judged by ideological understanding
Female body seen only as reproductive machine

Overemphasising reproduction role - undermines her social production.

- If we look at ourselves as means of production why object to owner of product & artificial means of reproduction
- Individual choice over social choice.
- Need to fight for democracy more primary.
- Asking for individual right over their body is extension of individual ownership. What we need is social power over reproduction.

Analogy with land & its products.

- We are redefining a new role of social reproduction.
Have to transcend over our slogan which represents a necessary historical phase.
How do we move then?
Redefine social reproduction.
No to techno. being created at this juncture of patriarchal domination.

3. RENATA KLEIN : 'NRTs'

Want to dismantle the idea that 'test tube baby' is good. Development started with England & mainly the west - now spreading all over.

1. First lie : IVF works. Its a failed technology.

A large no. of tests first to screen them for entering the IVF programmes. Then treated with a large no. of fertility hormones which lead to a lot of problem on her body. This process is done for harvesting eggs which are then retrieved (11 women we know have died & many are sick) Egg & sperm mated in petri dish - might result in fertilisation. Then ET - 80% unsuccessful.

Out of 100 women at most 5-10 have a child. Failures are not considered at all.

2. Children born of this techno. may also suffer from illnesses. We know of the DES tragedy. The fertility hormones have similar structures and might have a similar effect.

And yet women want children. What is to be done?

In all societies a 'barren' woman is looked down upon. This along with cherished desire & need leads to women to NRT.

This techno. looks at women as fragments & not as a whole. They are taken as 'living laboratories'.

Why techno. is this way & not directed towards curing the causes - social or biological.

3 reasons : (1) Doctors make money. Women pay for being made into laboratories.

(2) Pharmaceuticals make money. Now after bio-technology

∴ this techno. does not work more work goes on using the same human material - getting which is as difficult. Figures for success rates are also questionable although doctors now careful because of our noise.

(3) Use IVF for fertile women. Then all population could be sterilised & then do selective breeding with a few whose ovaries / eggs could be stored.

This leads to link betn NRTs & GE.

Could be the last frontier in male quest of "knowing all about everything". Lead to situation where women not needed. To move towards this, a lot of research on human embryos needed. ⇒ a lot of embryos needed. These techno. are eugenicist in their very nature. & that is why they are being promoted.

Also have to look at impact on poorer women. This could be called 'prostitution by wombs'.

Further directions:

- Maturing immature eggs outside women's bodies - towards making women (unpredictable as they are) redundant.
- Development of an artificial womb.
- Making mothers out of fetuses: taking out their egg cells in twelfth week & maturing them
- Women with dead brains - kept alive as breeders.

So what do we do about it?

Alongwith opposing IVF, have to support & understand her desire for bearing a child.

Don't we have to talk of infertility and stigma associated with it? Alternatives have to be in terms of reducing this stigma. We have to learn to grapple with the social problems & not keep discussing technological ~~aspects~~^{details} of managing infertility by artificial means of reproduction.

The questions that are thrown up and should be sought answers to could be:

- ① Why is 'barrenness' such a stigma? Why is this great stress on producing your own biological child?

Discussion after 1st Plenary :

Malini : Talk about situation in India. The calf in Delhi 1981, 6.1% women were childless.

Renata : Can give references to medical statistics about curing infertility.

Sylvia : Why not address causes of infertility? Some women are (Gabriela) involuntarily infertile and need to be supported. How (Philippines) exactly? Change values, adoption or use techno. but keep it in our control.

Renata : Have to destigmatise. All of us want things but can't get everything. Also child is not a possession that you could buy and own. Adoption is tricky because it would mean sometimes a poor woman giving up a child she wanted. Social mothering is something which we have lost and could have been a solution. Last option not possible : it i.e. IVF can never be a techno. hopeful for women as a social group.

Jean : How have women protested & how have others reacted to these protests.

Renata : Australia - little successful in terms of law prohibiting these techniques. Other thing is talking to women who want to go through it & asking them not to do so - Group counselling. Make infertility visible as hard but not end of the world. Identify pharmaceuticals who indulge in ART research & stop them. Make the issue public by talks to various sections on these issues. Women in IVF programs find our stand very hard & anti women.

Anna : Some decades ago bottle feeding was introduced for (Brazil) women who could not breast feed & we know the results. The child question needs to be discussed and Farida should develop this new defn. of 'reproductive rights'.

She is the Director of an IVF clinic

Farida: It has been a puzzle. At some pt. progressive "we are rejecting control. Contra techno. seemed to be a soln. - a technological one. Demand for reproductive right without change in her social context of production & reproduction & her relationship with men - will lead to these kinds of techno. solns. Our earlier demand was really individualistic and we now need to be more socially responsible.

Ragaa ^(Madinat) ^(Egypt): Our attitude to any new techno. should not be just rejection. We must look at +ve, -ve etc. etc.

Guy ^(Gabriela): IVF also related to human's relation with nature. Our end goal is towards utilising nature & so we come up with question of class, gender & race too.

Renata: We do have to develop alternative science. And so it has to be including nature.

Maria: React to Ragaa. Notion we are rejecting is that techno. is objective, valuefree. Techno. is racist, sexist & nature dominating. Hegel's remark: humanity begins only after we grow above nature - racist. This whole techno. is war technology.

Jalna: Have leaflets from European conference. - 4

Programme for 19th.

Plenary 9:30 - 1:30. - 4 presentations

Afternoon: 4 workshops.

- (1) Medicines & Drugs
- (2) Agri.
- (3) Agri - food processing
- (4) Historical - Plant genetics

Plenary for reporting.

19/3/89

GENETIC ENGINEERING

Chairperson : Mira Shiva.

1. HELGA (neurobiologist) : OVERVIEW of GE in non-human

{ English language appropriate for biotechno.
e.g. plants $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{as in plants} \\ \text{as in nuclear plants} \end{array} \right.$

• What exactly is GE.

New biology sees life as technical product & hence can be engineered.

e.g. take genetic info. from silkworm to a bacteria and see if it produces silk. Thus find causes of silk.

⇒ a new kind of engg.

Biology shifted from observation to a new science providing techno. appropriate for needs of modern society.

Lot of funds available

Many ways of looking at nature being reduced to just one way of looking at the genes.

Lot of research being done but G.E. based on a narrow paradigm of science and could be detrimental.

Applications in agriculture:

① Bacteria could be modified to produce some substances which had been done so far only by certain organisms.

New biotechno. : (a) Vanilla essence could be produced by ~~bacter~~ cell cultures & not to be got from plants.

(b) Cocoa could be produced

(c) Work being done on all this so that imports not necessary.

② Human embryos could be raw materials for pharmaceuticals, organs

③ Bacteria being used to interchange the nature of raw materials

④ Produce new substances

Bio techno. will become consumer of food
One is converting food into fuel or some such thing and also
used for bacteria to survive on.
All this is being done under the assumption that it would be
done under containment.

But there is deliberate release also
e.g. garbage handling; pesticides; affect intestines of cows for it
to give more milk; non-chemical pest control; virus could also
be used ~~to~~ against some kinds of crops.

New kinds of plant varieties & crops - needed for feeding
animals who need certain specific kinds of food.

- Change environment for growth of plants

- Produce human growth hormones in plants.

Plants can be made resistant to herbicides, which could
lead to more chemicals.

- Artificial seeds could be produced

Animal husbandry all techniques used could be transferred
to women.

Genes of animals also changed to make them bigger, or to
make a combination to make new animals.

New vaccines for animals also developed - Can be linked to
biological warfare

Medicine: production of drugs in plants, embryos research, vaccines etc.
(embryos at any stage)

While deciding we have to consider non-safety of these
procedures & the basic idea of health, disease & care that
underlines these methods of medicine.

* very early stage 'interesting' for research,
from abortions, necessary for nerve cells which could be
used for cures

In Germany, embryo research may be banned by the Govt.
There are controls ~~to~~ on acquiring embryos & so there
could be trafficking

Ulla : laws are like chewing gum. They just set limits but leave holes. Limits also decided by kind of research possible today which could be changed later.

VANDANA SHIVA : Agriculture, Food and Ecology. (Physicist; Philo.)
(of science; ecology)
Trained to see through claims of science
transparent \leftarrow \rightarrow use as spectacles.

Why no debate on mindset of kind of agriculture, ecology etc.
Nobel prize (for miracle seed) for peace.

\rightarrow How can we produce seeds which can eat up more chemicals.
This led to heavier cobs which led to lodging.

Soln for this was then dwarfing

Which led to miracle seeds not for hunger but to consume chemicals.

Thousands of varieties of rice replaced by one or two strains
Erosion of diversity & people growing these strains.

Seeds which were looked after by women taken away.

Dwarfing : meant less fodder & less food for soil.

\rightarrow reduction in proteins from cows etc.

All these problems \therefore of increased water & chemicals

So low output input ratio as compared to earlier methods

Biotechno. in agri. is riding on waves of critiques of the green revolution which has come from experience.

Green revolution : high chemicals, Bhopal, no pest resistance (as flaunted), desertification, water logging

Economically & ecologically devastating.

Cannot breed invulnerability infact could lead to more vulnerability.

In fact more research on pesticide / herbicide resistance.
Herbicides : can kill plants not wanted. But plants not wanted by agrobusiness is not what we do not want.
e.g. Batwa.

Also chemicals eliminate women who would have done the weeding.
Bamboos, reeds, wild grasses all getting extinct.

With G.E all this would become worse.

In addition it would create more vulnerability. Interaction of non weeds with weeds to create super weeds

Chains of bondage :: of indebtedness in being forced to buy the whole package

What is the mindset.

Way of looking at the world. Ecology based on realising nature's limits within which we have to work. Breaking out of seasons will not help.

Things which were whole in themselves & were functioning without help of labs & lab coats are now being used.

^{why we as women and feminists}
① All life has right to live & techno. which force us to question the ^{labels of} inferiority of these - be it plants or children have to be questioned.

② Impact - women will have to disproportionately carry the burden. Biotech. highly centralised & capitalised system.

③ Courage & creativity has to come from all of us.

Mira : ① :: of research being done by large agrobusiness. we are forced to change patent laws ② have to see all links in diff. areas & identify the common linkages.

(take recording from Malini)

'less food for more people and more junk food for few people'

'Define people as problem & say population policies
new III¹⁹ say pests are problems and advise pesticides'

Pests introduced with new seeds which then have to be controlled by pesticides. But pesticides also attack predators, which control those very pests and also pesticide resistance thus leading to pest outbreak.

Each intervention leading to fresh problems which are handled with something which could lead to a further mess.

Paula: Short sightedness of the approach. Not attacking the basic problem. Talk of less risky pesticides is ridiculous. New methods destroying food at the same rate or faster as higher yields that ~~are~~ they are being advocated for.

Rati: We are already doing such kinds of useless research in our labs and are already talking casually of 'gene pools' of Kaiga forests & so on. Need to have such discussions at scientists' forums also.

: Question about monoculture

Male club - conspiracy for power.

V.S. Monoculture has led to lower yields. In Chhatisgarh eg. rice production gone down. Credits for new seeds going up. In Indonesia, growing your own seeds is a crime. With new patenting, more policies ~~of~~ would occur. Turning issue of agriculture ~~into~~ ^{into} a law and order ~~women~~ **women** problem.

Violence against nature connected to violence against women.

Amnio. coming up in Punjab ∴ 1% women left in labour market. Infanticide in Madurai tribe after green revolution in that district. Also leading to more commercialisation.

There sure is a male club.

Ecological critique & feminist critique being co-opted to give a new covering while talking of this new techno. 'mimble fingers' now being used for seed work in biotech labs.

Mira: Food processing is being intervened upon & women have to take initiative to ~~start~~^{stop} it

Guy: Difference in-mindset: Pests are there. They eat part of the leaves & we eat the rest.

Also losing out on varieties affects our culture & practice

Lorita: My experience is that with the pesticides intro. alone (PHILI) pests became a big problem. Multinationals have used it for their own profits.

vs: All this is just politics of knowledge

Cuttack Rice Research Institute Director.

New agenda for biotech cereals & food staples are not priority. The priority is raw material. We are already planning against food production. New incentives are all for food product exports which would be used by industry. So we are making ready made food extinct.

"Behind ~~our~~ our backs, against our wills"

Decisions made in secrecy from citizens, parliament & bureaucracy ~~et~~ also.

3 NALINI: Bhopal

Would talk about what happens when disasters occur.

In case of technology something goes wrong and then you bring new technology to handle the disaster. But here the assumption is that we know what went wrong. In case of Bhopal, the problem is that what went wrong is not known or is not told.

Medical treatment →

Legal aspects:

Govt's collusion with multinationals, & buying over of the Supreme Court.

Have to rethink strategies when faced with the powerless situation that we are ~~faced~~ being forced into. How do we work ahead today in our present situation.

Maria: How do we distinguish betn. humanising & dehumanising (Peru) technology?

us: We know very little about safety levels of techno. Techno. can be divided: mechanical, war, chemical, biohazards. The latest methods would lead to situations where we wouldn't know also what is happening.

Nalini: Even if one knows what things do or how they behave in plants during production nothing is known about what or how these things would interact when released & allowed to interact with other things. The questions that are difficult are can we halt and stop and how do we do it and also can we do it in bits and pieces.

Anna: Nuclear accident in Brazil. Unknowingly taken radio-
(Brazil) active ^{from a hospital} Cesium. One third of material is not yet found or located & so its hazards would not be even known. So this is the disaster of peaceful use of nuclear energy in case of medicine.

Maria: ^{Mies} In Chernobyl also scientists could not answer what levels of radioactivity were safe. Scientists → politicians & they were totally flummoxed because they relied on scientists. Scientists had to say you don't believe the figures.

Powerlessness: After Chernobyl we demanded stop to nuclear energy but to do this we do not need alternate energies sources but we have to question and change our standards of living and energy consumption. Possibility of people fighting their own cases?

Nalini: Not possible

Theresia: Similarities in the thalidomide case, Bhopal, Chernobyl.
Co. that produced thalidomide is back with gene technology.
Earlier action could not be taken ∵ embryo was not taken as a person and now embryo is being taken as a person in genetic engg. Can't ask for amnio. for disability detection.
Also can't expect much from the state & the legal machinery.

4) Mira Shiva : Vaccines.

When antibiotics introduced no idea of drug resistance
Behaviour of things not as expected.

We are more worried about vaccines why.

- ① Its targettable irrespective of its efficacy.
- ② Techno. is in hands of few manufacturing units unlike other drugs
- ③ Medicine (western esp.) not as solution for health problems.

Not all diseases covered by vaccines & even diseases covered with vaccine are controlled. In this situation coming up with newer and newer vaccines - is it a solution?

Also vaccines replacing more rational management of disease.
Misplaced expenditure (large q'tys. on one disease).

{ Scientist would be decided by Aid giving agency.
{ Carriers, Acceptors everything to be decided by the Aid givers
More Aid givers → force to change patent laws.

Vaccines are non controversial so far.

This sudden influx is keeping GE in mind.

The same anti-rabies vaccine which was used in Argentina & denied and thrown out is now being tried in India.

~~Ques~~ We found this by fluke.

Question is of who holds information. Esp. when there is a ~~little~~^{lot} of secrecy we wonder what is up.

Vaccines being developed for diseases that are non-existent.
Possibility is that it could be for warfare.

Linking of same business houses in all these areas whether it be pharmaceuticals, agriculture, pesticides, seeds, genetic research.
Our network should take care about making information available
∴ lack of info. is very hampering.

(5) PAULA : Feminist Critique of GE. (Molecular Biologist)

GE very powerful weapon to problems.

They are not directing to warfare as earlier atoms for peace we now have genes for peace. Compare with space technology

In GE the basic premise is to 'help humans'. Might be a few areas where it could be misused.

It's not a question of abuse it's basically against us.

Some reactions are emotional

Where do we draw the line?

What about integrity and individuality of all forms of life?

"How much genetic goulash are we going to tolerate"
(meat & veg. stew)

Reasons of difference of G.E. & its effects and counter arguments

- ① G.E. is mixing of small parts of diff. genes instead of a total mixing - not even knowing where they are putting it. And this is very imp. i.e. location of genes & we are very far from knowing it. The speed is also much more than speed of evolution. Amount of GEd organisms is also much larger than classical breeding. GE has a new quality & quantity. These new organisms if escaped or released out would do ~~at~~ havoc interacting with nature. No environmental testing is done. In evolution every mutation of genes ~~is~~ gives organism which checks its fitting into environ.

2. Potential of chemicals in moving around is much less than that of organisms. Also they multiply and might pass their info. to related species. No GE organism once released can be caught & brought back.

Arguments: ① We've done it for 15 years & it's been safe. No disasters of any kind have occurred. So it's harmless & safe.

CA. Hah! it's even not possible to trace back the intervention into other human beings.

② Harmless ^{genes in harmless} species is O.K.

Have to look at risks in a context.

③ - Technological interventions are safer, less risk than nature.

(IIIrd ^{lan} to RT argument) - wombs, natural birth all risky)

- Pamphlet given to school children about cows - they have thousands of viruses & bacteria harmful to humans & we are able to control the cow & all that it carries.

- Nature is wild & we have to save ourselves from its onslaught.

We need social solutions not techno. solutions. We can say that there is much more problem that are man made in nature.

Beyond the question of risks, the question is why do we need it. 95% cases, they are bad solns to techno. created problems. For the other 5% we have to see the balance betn the gains & costs of it all to our ecology, culture and life in general.

The point is not that we are against progress, but we are questioning "Is this progress?"

Guy: On top of this we have to pay and support the scientists and technicians who are very racist too.

Veena: In principle agree to no to this kind of development but we should discuss the whole ideological package that goes with it.

Nalini: When we talk of integrity, individuality of all forms of life, we have to talk (about) ^{more} what we mean by this esp. in question of contra, abortion, medicine everything

Paula: I am not denying techno. what I am questioning is, is this development, is this progress?

Workshop no. 4 Plant genetics & Genetic imperialism

Tanja: Beginning of agriculture there has been struggle of plants and seeds. More intensified since colonial era. We have 3 hypothesis with 2 plants as examples & connection with just

(a) At any point in history the ^{economic} powers have used techno. to their interest so biotech. is a continuation in history as far as this is concerned

(b) Means of solns offered for problems are wrong because they are addressed to wrong problems & E will further emphasise

(c) Ownership of gene banks, ^{plant breeding} control is being concentrated further & boards have chance to influence population policies.

Plant examples: sugarcane & potato.

SC: exact origin not known. Indication in literature first is in India. Probably: Sanskrit has well defined words.

1 AD Europeans got SC. 8th, 9th century Arabians carried the techno. & Sugarcane, ^{Sugar followed Kura} Christian crusaders conquered ^{from} Arabians. Sugar followed the Bible.

Plantation economy as early as 1400.

(Get the paper) for full history of sugarcane and potato)
War between sugar and beetroot

Biotech → replacing sugar by artificial sweeteners.

In potato → hunger problem in Ireland

Problem not of North & South but of rich & poor.

1653 → hunger epidemic in Ireland. $\frac{5}{6}$ died & $\frac{1}{6}$ survived
on the potato

Sabina: Research of this kind is necessary to be done by us,
Nazis made link betw. population policies & food production.

What was presented here has definite links with what ^{was} ~~presented~~
^{discussed} ~~said~~ yesterday; that if uncontrolled this technology would lead
to selection and breeding of definite kinds of people ~~only~~

These papers give a historical context to this kind of control
manifested best in the Nazi regime. Control not only over who
should live and survive but also of what should be produced
who should do it and for whom it would be done.

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END OF 19/3/89

Ban on patents because its a key to making knowledge available
and not possessions of a few people. Owning of knowledge
would further emphasise all kinds of existing inequalities.

All the three hypothesis apply to all techno but what is so diff. about GE
What is so special about G.E.?

How do we draw the line? Techno. uptill here and then no more.

Strategies : ① Sharing of information (How ????)

Individuals could be given responsibility of a particular drug so that they could find all the details related to it.

Effects of drugs on pregnant women, lactating women & children
Also traditional medicines need to be researched into it.

- ② Impact of these technologies on the third world - including social.
- ③ Preserve local varieties by actually planting them in our own communities and in communally owned land.

20/3/89

POPULATION POLICIES, REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND FAMILY
PLANNING IN THE PHILIPPINES: Sylvia Claudio, Sylvia De La
Paz, Lolita Donato, Marilyn Sancho.

↓
Centre for Women's Resources
(Lib. etc.)

Guy: Introduction to Gabriella - coalition of 101 organisations
40,000 members. Issues of violence, health - - -

Before Spanish occupation status of women higher in marriage
and family. Catholic influence of Spain later.

Contra. introduced in 1920. → Counselling etc. later.

Marcos pushed population program in dictatorial fashion
Mother-child program, limiting family size, compulsory family
planning counselling -

largely contra. based. A lot of coercion.

Bribes for vasectomy with false hopes of reversibility.

IUD & pills propagated (banned from West)

Injectables & Dalkon shield - banned by women's orgn. protest

Swj. back as approved by population program.

Couples preferred natural methods (abstinence & withdrawal)

Techniques not compatible with culture & values.

A lot of debt also incurred (mainly U.S. AID)

A recent Govt. review admits it to be a failure.

Under Aquino Govt. picture even more chaotic.

USAID says stopping all funds from this year ∴ if not met
promises. ∴ of chaos in individuals & influence of church very
strong. Church lobby has cancelled provision of state to control
population and other similar measures.

Church recommends NFP. Also threatening suing state if they
have any kind of import or distribution of contraceptives.

Withdrawal of USAID → UN is now giving

- ① Overall improvement of life
- ② Respect of couples
- ③ Rejection of abortion
- ④ Respect to cultural variations
- ⑤ Advocating social & communal centres

A lot of illegal abortions ∴ women do not know of F.P methods

Syria : (RT in Philip.)

RT in management of fertility & infertility.

Availability, accessibility & utilisation

58 million population. Married reproductive women : 8 million

3-4 births per woman.

F.P. 71,994 : personnel. (~ 3000 physicians)

13,383 : facilities

Abortion illegal, Sterilisation legal with request.

Most funds from foreign agencies.

Most contra devices are imported.

F.P. services free in theory but "voluntary" donations taken.

45% women of RA using FP services.

Accessibility rates higher than using

Max. women use rhythm, then sterilisation & withdrawal.

Most common causes of infertility in women: endometriosis, blocked fallopian tubes. In men its low sperm count.

Managed by hormonal methods, microsurgery, ^{AI} etc.

Plans to set up IVF by Dec '89 in the Protestant hospitals

RT. mainly applied to

- ① management of fertility through FP
- ② " " " infertility through regular methods
- ③ setting up of IVF etc.

Lolita : Birth control measures are necessary & imp. We should pressure govt. to involve us in setting up, implementation of FP programmes. Active educational work. Emphasise that couples are responsible \Rightarrow contra. for men also needed. Demand that all options available & allow choice. Further women oriented research. Retrieve herbal medicine. Struggle against church. Reject international funding pressures. Discussion must go beyond RT. As long as women are powerless under fly, church, state, poverty they can never gain control.

Nelie : Young women's movement & younger women's health diff. movement. Forced more because of next international health conf. in Phillip. in Nov. '90. Also have to see it in the total context of our social context of debt, poverty, militarisation, unstable Govt., lack of democracy. The work that is being done is :

- ① health educational programmes : awareness of bodies, reproductive rights and question of choice with the existing pressure of church & funders. Not much choice to be anyway but strengthening with information on these issues. Talk to individual women and collectives about the like inequality & unequal relationship with men - Mainly among urban poor & now among rural women too.
 - ② Coming of ~~age~~ AIDS : thro' US military men. Campaign has involved prostitutes themselves, as asking for clearance. 3rd of the men. Right now there is no control. Victims of AIDS are giving up trade but are asking for support.
 - ③ Maternal mortality
 - ④ Population policy - discussions
 - ⑤ Drug policy - Controlled by multinationals.
- Low Govt. budget on health, education etc. as compared to defence. etc.

: Intro of newer techno. & at same time difficulty in access to control of one's own fertility

Marie: Clarification. You are using reproductive rights which I feel is a bourgeois-liberal idea - very individualistic. Also even if rights are given, access is never there so why ask for such rights. You are also ~~as~~ fighting for maternal mortality but that's a campaign of World Bank so how can you take it up.

Nelia: Not aware of WB but many others also take up these issues like UNICEF, our Govt etc. We have taken up \therefore its our reality & we have to take it up to link all our issues which have kept our health status low. We can take same issues with diff. perspectives. We define ~~RR~~ (RR) as women having some control, some choice over their own self. Its not going to give total control & cannot be taken in isolation from other issues facing us.

Guy: RR always tied up with general political struggles. Pushing bourgeois rights to strengthen movement for structural change is very essential.

UP: Death of women - maternal high even in US & cannot be ignored.

Betty Holmes: Regret my country's policies (US) all over & would like any strategies to be suggested as to what I should do back home. Woman leader of Phillip. joining other women leaders of the world in betraying women.

Ulla: Maternal mortality is a big problem but MCH programs in 3rd world are linked to population problems by development agencies. If we feel that fields are imp. for diff. reasons we should be aware of their co-option and work accordingly.

Ramaxi: We have to continue these campaigns because they are our women's issues & we have to be with them to do anything

Prostitution illegal in Phillip - but thousands of hospitality women who need clearances & licences etc.

Renata: I agree maternal ^(MM) mortality, etc. are imp. issues for you. But IVF clinics are now being set up I am worried. Also RR, very risky ∴ it leads to IVF and individualised demands.

Uganda: Have used WB funds for our projects. No law for FP but the individual families work out their own FP methods.

Rati: IVF can be misused for SD ∴ there is a male preference.

Anna: Agree with MM but I feel feminist agenda is being used by (Brazil) WB. Abortion clinics also suspect

Nalini: 2 ways of looking at MM - One is Govt. looking at 'uncontrolled fertility' as the reason. Second is low health status. Also death rate in reproductive age as opposed to outside it. I think we are uncomfortable about reproduction now. We have to take a stand not only on what is to be opposed but what is to be done about other methods.

Farida: Cannot isolate women's rights from general social struggle. So we have to define our terminology carefully.

Veena: ~~A~~ fire fighting. We are taking up issues as thrown up by Govt. & other agencies. We have to separate ourselves and make our independent demands.

Maria: WB not interested.

Individual power is not in contradiction to power of women as a group and in fact may be necessary to get some amount of strength to struggle and fight.

WORKSHOP : Contraception in Bangladesh, Korea & India.

Jahan Ara: (paper available)

Study of 3 villages - 500 couples 20% using OC Both ill & good effects. o.c. very popular - supplied by field worker.

A lot of complaints have been reported. But unaware of the complications, women are continuing to take it. Govt. is also constantly pushing these things.

Veena: In our environment, all medical support is being withdrawn & distribution is being done without any kind of check up.

The reasons for taking or giving up are not scientific - they are mainly socio cultural & are being used.

In India started with IUD without the necessary medical support system. It failed naturally & was followed with tubectomy and vasectomy. But tubectomy linked with other bargains. It was realised that this wasn't popular with family \therefore of her loss in strength. So then tubectomy associated post delivery, although her health then is at an extreme low. This also was

supported by women \therefore women wanted control after 3rd or 4th child. Then came laproscopic sterilisations \therefore they did not need hospitalisation. It was supported by family of course but a lot of failure ^{because} ~~is~~ & it was a strain on the body.

Basically it has been that the Govt. has manoeuvred & suited its methods to match the social background.

Mi-Kyoung: Paper available.

(S. Korea) Tubectomy more popular because of incentives offered for permanent family planning measures. Also target oriented. Abortion legal under maternal health - since 1974.

Mee Kyung - Paper available.

Veena: Women seek understanding and companionship. What men see marriage as unlimited sex and would never look or use contraceptives. We are hence at diff. levels. There is inequality in the relationship.

Reproduction Strike

Elizabeth } Experience very similar i.e. husbands do not use ~~contra~~ (Canada) } methods. One reason ~~is~~ that is being said is that they do not want to make it public that they are practising contra.

- Some place in India men who have undergone vasectomy are not allowed to participate in religious 'pujas' etc.
- ^{High} Infant mortality prevents permanent sterilisation.

Fiji: Vasectomy not practised at all.

Tubectomy to a very large extent

Depo propagated most by Govt. (since the '70s) Women have also ~~expected~~ accepted it because of lack of alternatives.

- Norplant in exptal. stage in Bangladesh.

- Hong Kong situation is more or less similar to S. Korea. TV being used to say men also responsible for contra. & FP. Injectables (without any precautions) are being pushed.

Strategies: The framework for it has to be defined.

(1) Looking at alternatives

- In Netherlands, they teach natural massage to women to induce menstruation which have been delayed for whatever reason.

- Abortion by women in some place in South India, tying up to the pulley and moving back and forth.

- Acupuncture, or acupressure.

(2) How to organise to pressurise for low dose pills, or asking for a lesser evil? [?]

→ enquire about cervical caps and diaphragms.

- contact dais / local midwives.

STRATEGIES (missed half session)

1. Vaccines :- Find out how far research has gone on in the west and stop it there itself.
 - Women in west have to express solidarity
 - Find out info from the companies manufacturing the vaccines
 - Look into biases in research and testing.
 - In contraception you could decide on what devices we want & what kind we do not - say eg. a total 'no' to hormonal contra. and finding out others which have been now dropped.
 - Similarly concentrate on infertility management i.e. cure and not on technical management.
 - Put into Comilla declaration, condemnation of all AID agencies which link up aid with other conditions & regulations.
 - Pressurise funding agencies to give info. of what kind of research and details about it. Then we could think in terms of a Tribunal against the companies who have committed crimes against health of women.
 - Checklist of what has to be done to monitor trials & research

INDIAN GROUP

~~SUB~~ MEETING

20/3/89

9 p.m.

- Inputs from grass root groups
 - Technical angle
 - Campaigns
 - Basic issues like food processing etc?
- Organisation meeting committee

{ Forum representative
Vimochana " / Samata
Veena
Nimitta
Saheli
VHAI Mira Shiva.

Each of us has to discuss with our own groups and send/
mail out our idea of organisation / topics / resources to each
other.



- Over next two years write out position papers expanding on the statements in the declaration as part of strategy
- Have to develop a worldview. As strategy it is also necessary to find out the weak links in the overall uniform fabric created by patriarchy and intervene in them.
- Giving doctors right to decide whether a woman should have an abortion or not, we have left an opening for the medical personnels to decide for us.
- Possible reason for stating lower status for IVF success, could be a chance to leave way for embryo research.
- No contradiction betn IVF & other classical theories. Its another form of violence - question of power relations & victimisations.



21/3/89 I.V.F. Expansion

Australia (Christine ^{CC} Crowe and Christine ^{CE} Ewing)

CC: IVF rampant its not about infertility - its about quality control.

History of IVF to show IVF is not to help women.

First time result of genetics and gynaecology.

First expt. on mice - Then women's eggs get from ovaries or parts of it

Various ~~sites~~ ^{parts of} women's bodies were used as sites for trying out the fertilisation. Maturation in culture not possible ~~so~~ to fertilise

so matured eggs needed. Initial parts like eggs taken without informing women. Excess eggs used for other research and not at all to help women get babies.

legislation passed in Victoria prohibiting research in human embryos. later changed. This was done by changing the defn. or modifying the defn. for fertilisation.

In U.K. too the problem is similar.

On the one hand state is to be held responsible to regard the interests of the community and on the other it joins with medical profession.

Work done by looking at interests of embryo and not women & not treating it as a social problem.

This also is a issue on which scientific community also divided. Embryo expts. are being done to eliminate genetic disorders.

This is softening - addressing needs of the afflicted who are again decided by the experts.

Disorders are treated as technical problems & not social issues.

Power relationships:

Contd meeting

Analysis and Strategies :

1. Women and science - no. of women in sc. & engg -
2. Recapturing our history and role in developing science
 - What is our attitude to this? Do we reject science as a whole or accept parts of it? If we reject it all then what is our vision and principles of alternate science?
 - In Germany for 15 yrs (women) feminists in sc & tech. have been meeting on these issues.
 - When, how, for how long will they do science is individual's decision and we should see to it that there is a dialogue open betn. our professions and our political work.
 - Also see role of social scientists
 - Sensitise all professionals to a woman oriented perspective.
 - Can there be a 'feminist' science? Areas of research can be decided by feminism but method of handling these would or might be the same for everyone.
 - New methods are being brought out in research. e.g. sending reports of the study to the participants, getting them in touch with each other.
 - Scientific has been given a lot of values.
 - IVF ~~etc~~, abortion etc. are all issues on which we should talk. e.g. IVF is being opposed by very few feminists. Maybe \because it is posing a question to classical feminist stands e.g. abortion what is our stand on it exactly.
 - We might construct something which we need not call 'science'
 - With NRTs the nature and method of oppression is going to change. Devise strategies to see the weakening of links in the powerful institutions and see how to move. e.g. IVF separating sexuality and reproduction on one hand and being used by the dominating powers to get it restricted to only monogamous, heterosexual women.

CE: Victoria Act first legislation in the world (1984)

^{NOTE} Marker injection - one sperm into the ovum. Checking of such ~~or~~ embryos for chromosomal analysis. The legislation set up com. to define fertilisation, embryo etc. Social debate on what or when an embryo is a person. Limit that they came up with was 22 ~~to~~ hours.

This modification was dangerous because it could be repeated before the implementation, leak of news of implantation of embryos in women. Using women as incubators to test embryos. These women are fertile (whose husbands are infertile) scientists have also bypassed the Act.

Govt. com. of infertility have now approved another set of expts. - embryo biopsy (one cell out of 4 cell 2 day old embryo). Remaining 3 cells presumably could grow into a full baby. The controversy was still just about whether or not embryos were persons or not & that the Act is being violated. Also spare embryos could be used for research at any time... they have not been covered under the Act.

Opposition from Catholic Church on grounds of illegality. Media is talking only about morality of embryo usage. No comment on where these embryos come from & what happens to women who supply matured eggs. This is then the link between IVF expansion to embryo research.

Embryo biopsy being called pre conception analysis using uterine flushing as replacement for amnio. & abortion. Right now law does not allow uterine flushing and we feel that soon it would be amended.

The kinds of genetic disorders - muscular dystrophy, Hurler's - in the beginning but it could expand to any no. of disorders. Prominent scientist: "Embryos with disorder could be rectified"

Research in U.K. for sex detection in 6-8 day old embryos presumably for sex linked disorders.

Genetic screening for IVF embryos have been on agenda all along & is now on our doorstep.

Legislation being modified and implemented secretly.

(All kinds of illegal, manipulative steps are taken.

→ Change in adoption laws, surrogacy issues

Scientists keep bypassing laws.

IVF surrogacy gives rise to genetic motherhood along with biological and social. Here genetic is considered real mother & biological just made a breeder with no relation with the child.

IVF imperialism: scientists setting up clinics ⁱⁿ other countries.

María: For IVF and against embryo research does not work.

- Ireland allows IVF but prohibits embryo research. Then all embryos that are fertilised have to be implanted.

Renata: All of us have made interventions in media & made ourselves heard.

Alice Lee (Malaysia): Islamic country. Muslims against all unnatural reproduction & so few women Muslim leaders have spoken up against IVF in the newspaper.

Miriam (Hong Kong) } One of the economic dragons & so market for all kinds of technology. Hence IVF also available & getting popularity soon

(paper available)

Possibly lot of research being done in China ∴ everything is in the Govt's hand. IUD common form of contraception

26/3/89

FINRRAGE meeting :



(Shouldn't the analysis be what and how its listed in the declaration?)

After Sweden, list of contacts asked to send inf. of all kinds scientific, press, resistance. Only 4 countries send the inf. 3 packets a year (each packet ~ 100 pages) Language was a problem. Also needed women to summarise. Give rise to FINRRAGE news (run by one person - Cindy DeWitt) Summary did not work - Translation also difficult. Expensive to mail so charges asked but many have dropped out.

Lot of time and energy taken by networking.

Groups in individual countries would be autonomous. Can also use affiliation to FINRRAGE.

Lot of work increases during international conference.

Spain: Imp. to do publicity work.

Australia: IVF & surrogacy. Subscription for newsletters.

• Country reports: Basically using information packets to ~~use~~ write and create programs for ^{all} other kinds of media. Also everywhere its a problem of national networking because of lack of funds and infrastructure. Actions are similar - e.g. initiating public debates, some amount of policy intervention (minimal) - basically creating an atmosphere.

Global network and FINRRAGE (?)

What do you mean by a network?

[How can a network have a position? It can have a broad understanding / framework which obviously has to be that evolved at the international conferences like this one.]
Also how do you separate out your analysis? ...

Malini: Second tt. baby in Calcutta in same year as first.
Next baby in 1986 in B'kay.

Veena: Future of IVF in India. Create a dominant ideology
Nuclear family enforced. Motherhood has acquired new meaning
Science has played to values and cemented further the old
dominant values.

IVF entering when child must for nuclear family.

Fertility techniques used always & this is logical extension
of made possible by science. So one has to question the
euphoria of motherhood.

Law not possible to be implemented.

Johanna } 200 ++ babies. 1st in 1987. Success rate in private
(Austria) } 25% & public 10%.

Surrogacy clinic with a lot of constraints and regulations.

Aurelia: Laws

- concerning determination of child's parenthood.

No laws for IVF. GE - only commission is now meeting.

- In U.K. sterilisation associated with retrieval of eggs.

Satoko: (paper available)
(Japan)

In 1987 3000 amnio. in Japan.

215 ^{amnio} cases were done in gene clinics of which 62 were
deformed & all were aborted.

Becky (US):

5. How to tackle WHO for its stand on contra. research. - Nalini
Can get info. through annual reports.
A group get together all the info. and see how we confront WHO.
Group already acting on WHO regulations of long acting contra.
Anjana could give contact. Antifertility vaccine group could
also join in. (12)
6. Info. on testing of biological warfare - Ulla in Hamburg. They
can give info. & would like to receive info.
7. Funds (?) for postage etc. Using NGOs. Carry material back & forth.
8. Develop info. disseminating material which is accessible &
people can understand it too.
9. Processes of legalisation of the NRTs - info. about this should
be compiled and sent out. - Verona.
- FINRRAGE can co-ordinate contact betn. women of all these
groups.
10. Counselling and direct support to infertile women - Marilyn
11. Alternative to Helsinki declaration - Lena.
12. Christine, Anna & Katrine ^(Denmark) → vaccines.
↳ contact person.
13. ~~Post~~ Menopausal use of hormones - Becky, Judith.
In the context of "women and pharmaceuticals" - Mira Shiva.

Declaration of Comilla -
Vote of Thanks

WORKSHOP 6 What we agree upon and what we disagree upon

Nalini: For any techno. - can look at country position. Also seeing to lesser extent the impact but have not talked about strategies given the political, social, economic situation. e.g. legislations. Other problems like in India we have top issues - inf, SD, etc. or general health issues which would affect & would be taken up by most groups.

Nimita: Situation is so diff that strategies have to be diff. & very specific.

Nelia: We also take defns. of words in our context even though the word is taken from somewhere else.

Nalini: Also have to see what is power in our situation - it has meant nos, legislative power, shocks (like in women's issues).

Guy: We realise that NRT & GE are dangerous for every country but we have to talk of how we ~~can~~ put it in our context. Also how we handle "top" issues.

Ulla: Diff. levels. what techno. we accept or not? - laws & their relevance - Self organisation and how to do it? How we start realising what is the final aim.

Paula: How to make it clear to women we work with? Struggles & strategies are most powerful ^{only} when the issue really hits you. So its difficult to take up issues like GE which seems so abstract. Two levels - making links clear and strategies.


Ferida: There seems to be a lot of divide betn N. & S. What I feel that ~~it~~ ^{there} is no space given for exploration of our specific situations.

Nelia: I support that. We want to see the links & somehow we were not able to do it so far. We are learning from the experiences of the N. We would like to see the link of all this with our wider struggles. And it becomes very difficult to do this when strategies are so specific.

25/3/89

STRATEGIES

1. A tribunal on 'medical crimes against women'.

Based on tribunal of 'violence against women' at Brussels in 1976. Some women never came out in open. They just spoke about it. Have women talk about contra. abuse, dehumanising nature of IVF, ^{Surrogacy,} Dalkon shield etc. Difficult to find women. Very costly. Give publicity and possibly legal action (funding?) Also could be a protest and pressure tactic.  Set up a fund to help the people. (There is a difference in local cases & this kind of a tribunal)

Can also try out local level trials.

Renata will be the anchor person.

(* Also find out if women would stand up at national/international level)
2. Launch a campaign to document women's stories & then think of having a tribunal. Can use these as part of education - in tribunal be careful of issues that we take up.

2. Good quality health information about IVF etc. to handle women who go in for IVF voluntarily.

3. Focus on G.E. & agri. and food processes from a feminist perspective on World Food Day, ^{16th Oct.} Paula & Helga would send info. packets on background. Also concrete suggestions. Protest against institutes doing this kind of work. Get in touch with local groups who are doing positive work on this issue like preserving local varieties of seeds, plants, animals. Collect info. of such groups & circulate.

4. Women's Feature Service. telex lines could be used for this purpose. Thais could send addresses of contacts in countries

Jalna: How to create space for exploration? There is dissatisfaction amongst many people that everything is very technical and this is losing the context.

Nalini: Two three kinds of issues (i) Issues being technical.

Mirra: In contra. I felt a great divide. ^{11^{1st}} to first day stand. This difference keeps coming up and yet they are not considered for discussion.

Nalini: (2) Even if we agree to throw techno. our societies are at very diff stages.

Guy: How do you decide what kind of techno has to be thrown out. We should not divide betn N & S its more a difference of a fundamental understanding.

Paula: ~~Text~~: We have to discuss further. We have to move . . .

~~Smaller~~ sessions on Campaigns.

Declaration :

Preamble : Is that our criticism of the left.

We oppose IVF for the kind of technological intervention it makes in women's bodies and the possible eugenic potential it holds.

Group 1 : change disease to destruction

co-operative coexistence

PLENARY : WORKSHOP REPORTS

WORKSHOP 1 Traffic in eggs, embryos, & women.

2 ~~2.1~~ Infertility and Counselling

Findings from interviewing women undergoing the program of IVF.

Strategies :- Have to ~~decided~~ decide on the basis of how women look at their problem of infertility and cures for it.

4. ^{- Causes for infertility.} Laws and Commissions :

Disabled people - new law in FRG. for forced sterilisation

General discussion from here on to discussion on rights.

Social change towards equal relationship to resolve issue of rights

IVF meant intervention in women's bodies and so was against all women. Issue of abortion also could not be resolved.

Stand on legislation also ^{could} not be taken.

5. Risks in IVF :

3. Counselling etc. : Not held at all.

6. What we agree on and what we disagree upon :

- Law can be as good as the system in which it operates but we have to use legislation as part of the campaign.

- Congress of women against GE & RT ^{Since 1985} ~ 2000 women part of it. In Oct. '87, starting a surrogacy clinic in Frankfurt was protested against. Got in touch with all women - Asked for telegrams, letters - protest etc. Went into press - Result was the agency was closed.

- Also opposes Genetic Counselling & there is a co-ordination of women's movement and the disabled movement. Managed to close one genetic counselling centre.

- Repression, like jailing, has on the other hand led to a lot of publicity and hence raising of national and international support.

PLenary on Comilla Declaration.

(I am just not interested in making these kinds of declarations. In the process we are taking away so much time which could have been used more creatively. There have been absolutely no concrete talks on strategies or networks -

Does a declaration mean our analysis of the situation? Do we need to agree on the analysis?)

Preamble - what we do not want - what we want in general & in specific.

(How does it help to bring out all your specific differences out into the open and even stress on them.)

- Mixed groups & mixed issues.

- Lobbying with local party members running for the election.
- Constantly write to local and national newspapers everytime there are pro-articles in the papers. It led to a place on the national television

Can talk of strategies with the media

- Campaign against 'bovine growth hormone' to be given to cows for higher milk yield. As stupid as anything else. Coalition of farmers, animals rights groups, consumers, women's groups & so on. Just an announcement of boycott get the milk out of the market
- Deliberate release. "Citizens observing petunias" → genetically engineered petunias with colour diff. from natural. It's a harmless expt to test out for future expts. Plan to just weed out the plant & not let it grow.
- Cultural item like a cabaret to be performed for the international night

Paula ; Some of us are still in research. It does help to have women inside to understand & monitor. An example that Veena asked. Genetically engineered insulin for diabetics. The question is why spend so much on production of insulin and not on prevention of diabetics.

Judith: Any techno./sc. has to be balanced betn. use & abuse & then decisions about its acceptability taken.

(Canada) } Scientific community very powerful force. It seems to me that for majority of us its difficult to challenge science on its own turf. And so the whole question is of alternatives. For most women challenge to science has to be at a very practical level. So info. is o.k. but we have to unite.

Christine E : How can we challenge this bad system and work towards making a humane science in this bad system? Is there anything wrong in studying chemicals of life? There is a point in micro. studies to be placed in a social context. Do we give up all sciences of genetics, biochem., microbiology.

Helga: Our science has blinded us to new ways of looking & so we have to look at these things.

Paula : There are diff. ways. I don't think there is ^{any} ~~nothing~~ wrong in doing biochem. or micro. or anything. Its a question of how much priority ^{specific area} these researchers ^{are} given.
(Is there a dichotomy here?).

↳ stand on GE

PANEL PRESENTATION ON SD CAMPAIGN:

- The issue of SD and selective female foeticide
 - Social context: son-crazy society, low status of women, tradition of infanticide, general neglect, extended by science to this test
 - Began since 1974 - Govt hospitals stopped in '78. Then again '82 Bhandari hospital controversy
 - Prevalence and cost. Rough estimate of 78000 female fetus abortion betn 1978 and 1983. 9m B'way from 10 clinics in '82 → 248 in '86 16 genetic labs in B'way connected to towns ~500km away. Estimated 30,000 female fetuses aborted every year Boroda reports that ~2400 tests in '87 alone. One clinic claims 20,000 samples in ^{last} 10 years
 - Composition of campaign group
 - Top level issue and basic issue. Because top level had to be dealt with campaign
 - Because of ^{high} prevalence, strategic stand asking for regulation not ban. It is eugenic to some extent but we are forced because of existing material condns for most of us
 - Even banning SD was thought of at two levels (i) leg (ii) consc raising
 - Actions taken for (i) Participation in drafting committee
 - lectures, debates in all fora • Media pr. (news media very helpful)
 - Lobbying (making a non issue into an issue)
 - (ii) All women's groups taking it up at their levels • Yatra
 - March • Children's day prog. - skits, songs, posters, (train) films
- These actions co-ordinated to match (i)

- Method of "natural sciences"
- "° of claim of talking about truth → applied to other areas
- Have to look at other methods of arriving at truth while
- ~~At same time try & expose~~ all along questioning whether or not there can be 'a truth'
- Use of science only to be controlled; whether or not sc. & tech. can be separated.
- demystification. - curiosity in a social context.

Farida: There is nothing like neutral science.

Becky: Human curiosity

Helga: No abstract curiosity. Any curiosity arises out of a certain social context. Questions are framed by the context in which we are. Secondly is also question of funding.

Sarah: Difficult to ensure dominance of sc & techno. in a society.

Ideas are being kept secret & this secrecy is very typical in bio-techno. & GE. So we have to use this network in getting more information

Anna: Practical suggestions. Creating social methods of controlling. e.g. info. about women who died in IVF or Dalkon shield. We should talk more about them.

Guy: Agree with critique of science but have problem with techno. I feel if you are clear politically and understand the implications of the techno. its o.k. to use it to that extent. Must discuss science from 3 points of view and not 2. But again use methods of science. Question is do we have to draw a line and if so, where do we do it.

23rd March '89

FINRRAGE positions on all issues.

Christine Crow : Resolution passed at Sweden in 1985.

(Given in Made to War)

Verona : Historical context of why this position (personally & as a group of women). I am German & this is significant. Read about NRTs in newspapers & then went to Brussels for a conference. Met FINRRAGE and have been co-ordinating since in Barcelona.

Two imp. issues. Developments of techniques at a very fast pace leaving us breathless. Recently article on genome mapping done by Watson. For non-biologists etc its difficult to understand, keep up and analyse. So we have to make efforts all the time to understand the technical details. Second is rampant racism

Renewed onslaught because of socio political situation hence now science used for eugenics. Techniques used for cattle extended to women. How? Its racism. Few keeping resources and others out. Of concern is the declining birth rate. Have also to attack the Malthusian theories. High population density in Europe. And why not open out instead of tightening immigration regulations. Have to object to use of women as raw material.

Helga : Implications of population policy ^{on} ~~to~~ our ecology. Its controlling fertility of women & earth. Its question of control by whom (over what). Have to spread info. about NRT & GE showing links of new techno. with old ones. Actions & strategies like getting women together & sharing info. of techniques and Feminist resistance to it.

Farida : Women alone have power to challenge the ideologies of racism, etc.

Anna : Imp. to be in such a network. Was working in Brazil in health & contraception. first exposure to high tech. in Denmark (1984)

have got all devices harmful to women. And all these are going to be used for management through social engg. in an already eugenic society. Sc. & Tech. are not free. We have to look at their inter-relationships.

Malini: Let us not call it western / eastern science ∴ we would just be dividing ourselves.

Guy: Look at alternatives to concretise. How sc. & tech. work in third world. There is sc. & techno. for elite & against poor.

Becky: Should talk about applications of science.

Paula: But we should look at the basic. Do more work of status of GE & RT. in the eastern bloc. Science is being used as an instrument of oppression.

Helga: Question of alternatives. Can't just think them out. There are alternatives like diff. kinds of agriculture and knowledge system Related to people.

Lena: Imp. to include concept of 'point of view'. Try & develop a feminist declaration of medical ethics. We should pool our experiences to make a criteria for application of new techno. Prevention of infertility has to be area of research. ∴ this becomes a cause of

Veena: Wish you would give more examples. Research in our labs. e.g. to treat anaemia. Take parts in it & consider it to be whole which is not true. Tablets could be produced & be useless ∴ it is creating a sterile atmosphere out of the social context & coming up with the solutions. Secondly science is coming forward to solve social problems.

Nalini: I am not a scientist. Aside from being mechanistic & reductionist, it was also method of science which affected other areas.

Shireen: Most advancement has gone against women.
(B' desh)

Discussion on right of lesbians to ^{in vitro} (infertility) clinic. Realised that the techno. is not very far. Betn '84 & '85 did a lot of thinking. It was clear that in little time there would be total control over all areas of reproduction. i.e. sterilisation of women in third world. Already 60% women in my country sterilised and so this isn't science fiction anymore. Am getting & have got info. from this kind of network. This network very imp. & strategic in the war against our enemies. We have to build a movement against taking over of seeds of women, animals & plants.

Debbie: Technicalities of networking. No membership because its not an organisation. Try & break isolation of women working in this area. Facilitating movement for discussion & strategy. Voluntary funding. International packets for dissemination of info. Packets put together: info from diff countries on various aspects. All this put together & sent around to national contacts. They have been paid for so far. Through contacts we have got international solidarity for local campaigns e.g. cholera vaccine in B'desh; Libel suit in Austria against journalists; women in Spain tried for ^{performing} abortions; Imprisonment of Ulla and Ingrid; New surrogacy agency in W. Germany.

Marlyn: Part of networking would be ^{to} listen to each other about how best we would like to combat NRTs and GE. in our own social contexts while broadly sharing info. to fight the NRT & GE.

Maria: Had hoped that we would in this conference question the developmental model before being able to take a stand. The critique has started. Want to discuss the controversy posed by utopia of using techno. to control our bodies. If against RT asked position on abortion. All the while we have fought anti abortion laws. Once we say that abortion is our right

PLENARY Feminist Critique of Science.

Helga: It's a communal process of women coming together to know. Knowledge produced by science - how biased it is e.g. in biology. Feminist critique began in 60's starting from biology. A new aspect is from '80s.

One crucial point was that e.g. in bio. results of science were such that they re-emphasised stereotypes. Structures are very male-dominated. How does this science look at social problems or can it provide answers for it.

Imp. approach was to look at history. Mechanical world view (male) replacing wholistic view (female). This type of science is reductionist. You decide what relationships are necessary and study only them. We have to ask what relations we consider imp. e.g. Present biology looks at life as just a game of chemicals. So it's a technical process - handleable and manageable. We say non-technical processes have also to be looked. e.g. crop & its relation to economy & industry or also its relationship in life of people. This is the new framework in which we have to think of a new science.

Paula: Imp. problem is reductionist nature. Selling the result as the whole truth. Methods are such that only results that fit in are retained & so this is very wrong. Have to see the relation with people and its socio-political context. Science is not value free and is not free thought. It is manipulation of the world we live in & in GE its manipulation of the living world. There can be ^a different science. Good work by Barbara MacClintock.

Rati: Am talking from my feeling. How multinational science has come to our country and how it is being used. We have had a tradition of social engg. but with birth control techniques we

how can we oppose IVF and other RT. While forming reproductive laws for the 1990's by American feminists - I was shocked [∴] they recommend RT as they give reproductive ^{alternatives} ~~freedom~~ and choices to women. Further because now Feminists are providing laws to propagate inhuman and destructive technologies.

Farida: Cholera vaccine trial in B'desh. New oral vaccine trial for cholera in support with Sweden & some other organisation imposed upon people who were not told of implications. Good, strong surveillance. Looked voluntary because signatures taken from illiterates and also gifts given. Not recording side effects which we could see when we went there. This ignored again on grounds of villagers not understanding. Held press conference & sent material to FINRRAGE. Got radio & media coverage in Sweden & it helped to at least have better control.

Anna: External pressure helps a lot in countries like ours.

Irene } Feel we have to work from the ecological angle. I think
(USA) } its a matter of industrialisation of all processes of life which forces us to a situation when these kinds of techno. become a necessary thing to ask for.

Canada } Critique of development and techno. are coming from the third world also, and its imp.

Veena: Our experience of finding women trying to have control over their own experiences by self induced abortions which they surely do not enjoy. We had a techno. which gave sterile abortions. safe for women. I would like to differentiate betn. this demand and IVF.

Lena } Two year survey on women who have done IVF. Women
(Denmark) } who do it, do so voluntarily and so I have faced a dilemma betn. my position of opposing IVF and the understanding of women in general. We have to take these dilemmas seriously and see the analytic situation and the reality of women. Have

24/3/89.

Why are we being forced to defend our stand I do not know. We have been saying since yesterday that theoretically we are not against anything that is being said here. We took a strategy to develop a campaign ^{Maybe} having worked or working in women's movement & not having any disabled movement or not being able to really contribute in that direction, our strategy is pro women but anti-disabled and could also be called eugenic. ~~Maybe~~ The strategy ^{may} ~~does~~ turn out to be wrong. Definitely so much discussion is going to keep us alert about what we are going to do. But I really resent defending a strategy and also being posed as an opposing point of view. This was the reason that we did not want to be on the panel. We do not have a ^{diff.} (independent) stand on the issue. There is another point. Since the first day we have been asking how are people going about realising their theoretical positions. ∴ logically put theories can be agreed upon by every body but its when we come to moving forward that we are really stuck. Having come here seeking for strength and support ^I ~~we~~ feel really disheartened when so isolated. What are we going to get out of putting each other in opposing points of view? Why are we ~~so~~ being so closed and committed to what we have decided upon alone.

Are my expectations more than what can be realised?

Am I also being very rigid, defensive & possessive of my stand?

What is it that is really bothering me?

I do not know what it is that I feel is wrong but there surely is something

to critically give alternatives.

Paula: 2nd imp. because all of us are going to face these ~~etc~~ dilemmas.

Is there an alternate or there is none at all. We have to look for alternatives, more importantly about genetic counselling & pre natal diagnosis.

Kamari: Bhopal - issues of amnio demand.

: Women's Feature Service. Helps in creating a pressure to reject techno. we have to look at whole model of development.

Renata: Commonality of IVF women in North & South. Same comments from women all over. I object to voluntarism :: infertility is stigmatised and hence its coercion. Also I cannot take a stand saying o.k. to injectables. We have to look for alternatives.

Rati: Very high vasectomy rates earlier but reduced due to political pressure. Laproscopic camp approach with stress on the female sterilisation. Norplant is coming and has eugenic trends. Another aspect is of casteism and communalism. It can be used in such riots etc. I am sensitised more to these issues but now I have to keep my antennas out.

Kanchana: Discussions on 2 levels. One global - industrialised development model and second is women's reaction from their own position. Feminists have to look at development carefully. Women are not part of development program. We have to oppose dehumanising technologies.

Verona: Our dilemmas are complex and we should not look for simple, easy connections. Abortion illegal in Spain. Abortion not our only issue but are forced to take it up because of the number of women going abroad for abortions. - A lot of contradictions and ironies. So we have to think for ourselves what we mean by ~~how~~ getting free of the control over our bodies.

24th March '89



Plenary session on Eugenics

Theresa: Opposition to amnio etc. by disabled movement, anti-fascists and women's groups. There is a continuity in the tendency of eugenics. The basic idea is that there are good and bad genes. Clause of 'eugenics' for abortion not needed ∴ its against the disabled and also does not help the woman. Also not all disability is gene-linked. No one can use pre-natal diagnosis information ∴ its not ~~against~~ possible to rationalise living with disabilities. If we have proper facilities then we can have indep. living for the disabled.

Jalna: Disability as a term is being redefined every day.

- Not talking of preventing disability but of preventing disabled from being born.
- Racist implications of this kind of testing and research.

Anna: Introducing amnio. - Abortion would be done under the clause that it is therapeutic. How about the mothers? All mothers say that it was a painful time but it was a rich experience at the same time.

Rati: We are being made to think and act in isolation. We have to get back to becoming a social being.

- Have to start from specific to general.
- Experience: strategy and theory has to be kept clearly in mind.
- Challenge.

Meera: We * know that all techno. or intrusions in women's bodies. We really have to get down to see which methods are less harmful. Would also need FINRAGE'S stand on abortion and contraception. Are we making moralistic stands? We should stay away from creating dualistic system of medicine. In developing movements we have to be clear of all the contradictions and how we are going to react to the demands of women.

Aurelia: Direct link betn IVF and vaccines.
(Austria)

Latifa: Experience of infertility and adoption

Jalna: Practical suggestion. People want info. To formalise this if people can specify areas that they want they could be channelised properly.

Lena: Use IVF to say some more. IVF is a new area & few studies have been done. Also results and findings are very diff. Even though knowing the effects women go in for IVF. We oppose IVF but we have to take into account women's own feelings ~~and~~ on our position would stagnate.

Anna: Women in Brazil pay to be sterilised. It is a result of the social changes from agri. soc. to industrialised ones. So women not going voluntarily, they are being forced to do so.

Catherine Christine: Racism in India. (did not understand)

Chay: about campaign

Mira: Look at as health worker. Very few people (usually same ones) involved in all these campaigns. So if they get involved in any more issues they would be taking away from some other campaign. A lot of natural disasters. - Privatisation of medical care. We have to take stand on poor and other deprived sections and work with the others (All other kind of nonsense also.)

WORKSHOP : Genetic counselling and pre natal diagnosis (Paula)

- abortion

disabled, why state was asked to intervene

- Question of choice is very difficult ∴ giving choice at the same time takes away the choice of not having to do the tests at all.
- Germany - one clause in abortion laws is for eugenic reasons
- Australia - the IVF law does not allow people with genetic disorders to participate in the program.
- Find out how disabled people / children were accommodated in pre western industrialist societies. *
- Write in scientific journals.
- ∴ choice is in a social context, it is very patronising to say that you can have abortion for any reason other than genetic disorders.
- Can we have a resolution asking for abortion laws with no condition enforced by state.

(Talk to Christine Crowe and Christine Ewing about strategies)

- * Most traditional societies have been most cruel to disabled so we have to look forward and create models that are more humane and arise out of our feminist understanding.
- Similar strategic stands have been very detrimental.
e.g. of Margaret Sanger, abortion laws in Germany.



Veena: We are talking of many things in capsule of IVF - eugenics, infertility, right to have children - leaving us confused & dazed. Our reproduction has been manipulated for years. Some techno. ^(AI) are in conformity to dominant values. Techno. keeps serving your need. Eugenics exists in many other arenas, but we are locating it ~~only~~ in IVF now. We should hence probably have sessions on infertility. We keep making short term proposals and we need long term ^{basic} issues to be handled. How is it that our demands today are against most women?

Uta: Our demand & strategies regarding IVF. Oppose IVF in public and to individual women. Use counselling services. Have to reach to each woman & explain them. Each one of us is infertile in some period. & so infertility is not out of us.

Maria: Sex preselection.

Marlyn: (did not hear in preparing answer for Maria).

Christine } Inability to cope with issues. Have to look at modern
(Zambia) } techno. & look at what is appropriate for us. What has interested me is contraceptives. So need info. on all of it. We don't have IVF but we do not need it.

Meera: Question about male infertility. Fatherhood is also as forced upon men. Their virility is also under attack always. But as social movement we have to take this into account.

Paula: Suggestion for workshop on pre natal diagnosis & genetic counselling. Try to focus on suggestions for common campaigns - Proposal for workshop on alternatives.

Korea: Our strategy was to keep quiet. We are neither first nor third world. We kept quiet because not knowing English & no place for fourth world. FINRRAGE strategy has to be redistribution of wealth.

Farida: We chose N and S, but problems there too. Techno. that we are talking about is as related to us as developed countries. e.g. population policies. The philosophy & ideology is |||^{lan}

e.g. in China now IVF is being used for sterilised people. One technology is creating the ground for others. Our aim is to create awareness on these techno. The field trip was to acquaint people of the actual situation that exists. F.P. and health centres were also just to get a feeling. FINRRAGE position on contra. & population policy. We talk of women having control but we know that the woman never had a choice to Techno. that is coming is taking away this control more and more. and so we have to be critical.

Nelia: Have to support our Korean sister. We have to fight against the system which is dividing us and giving rise to such dehumanising technology. Also we have to answer the question of what is the difference in dying of hunger & dying of IVF.

Possible workshops:

2. Issue of self determination, abortion
- Maria Mies
3. Infertility, adoption and social, biological mothering
- Becky
4. Changing man-woman relationships ...
- Mira S + Anna
5. Genetic counselling and prenatal diagnosis
- Paula
1. Priority needs of women, health & reproduction amongst the poor
- Mira Shiva + Veena S.

Eurocentric

Verena

Contradictions

Not enough attention to the process that needs to happen in order for this change to come > relations in society > antagonism betw person as indiv. + social being > indiv. rights vs social responsibility)

No possibility of consensus - has not been discussed.

Unawareness of oppression via technology

Does not look at the process by which we arrive at change

Not the technology per se but the meaning of the capacity it enables in the context of

The commercialization of the desire of women.

~~X~~ We oppose IVF and other reproductive technologies for the kind of intervention it makes in women's bodies and the ^{possible} eugenic potential it holds. "

differentiation

nature of network

Things we want

- 1) Research, money, energy into preventing infertility
- 2) measures to promote more democratic discussion of "science"
- 3) drugs banned in country of origin should not be exported
- 4) ^{we demand} an end to technologies ^{& policies}, which result in natural food being converted into more expensive, unnatural food, resulting in ^{"less food for more people and more junk food for few people"}

We are against

massive campaigns & using political, demographic and ideological ^{pretexts} ~~pretexts~~ which disregard and disrespect women's endeavours to shape their own lives (for example, the population control policy) (European natalism).

✓ Things we don't want

- 1) Resources into IVF when basic reproductive health needs are not being met
- 2) long acting invasive contraceptives used in 3rd world selective discriminatory way
- 3) commercialization of women's desire for motherhood
- 4) rep of contraceptive technologies which imply serious health risks for women
- 5) massive campaigns
- 6) IVF * for loads to ~~2~~
- 7) biotechnology to solve the problems of food and agriculture which the green revolution could not solve
- 8) something on food processing
- 9) sex determination or pre-selection

A separate resolution for the Bhopal

We oppose

Sex determination or sex preselection ~~in this~~
~~male dominated world~~ ^{is used} which leads to
discrimination against women in this male
dominated world.

Rewriter

~~through the use of new techno.~~

The social discrimination against women is
aggravated through the technologies of SD
and SP resulting in ^{a growing} the reduction of adverse
~~sex ratios~~ in some countries. We demand ~~the~~
~~ban on~~ such applications of these technologies.

~~Do you need any takas, rather how~~

How many takas would you take ?

कुछे कितना पैसा चाहिए ? हम खाने के मुंह बाद
चले जाने वाले हैं.

कुछे के पास कितना extra है ?

कुछे 2-300 की भरवा होना

A small village in Madhya Pradesh

Nagpur
Chhindwara.

9/11/60
~~11/9/60~~

9/11/1960

Techno. means gadgets for us
but it still means relieving some
amount of drudgery for us.
It has country it is not gadgets which
consume the energy ~~but~~ but the
Industries

Is it because of controversy
statement.

~~Because~~

The church involvement
and why we in
India have avoided
and experience of Gloria
with a poor Christian
woman — But it's -ve.

Did I miss out a
lot - I you didn't miss
much - I think the fireworks begin
on Thursday.

Isn't it a result of
a dominant ideology
result of dominant ideology of
the nuclear family, motherhood,
patriarchy, etc. But a new
ideology of women will add
a dimension to this.

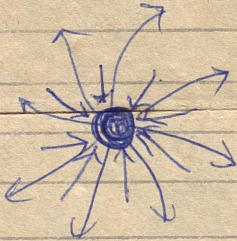
How can we separate religion (church)
from ordinary people in this way
now with the kind of roles we are
seeing of people even women in riots?
Hasn't
~~Doesn't~~ the influence percolated to
the psyche too esp if they are
organising as Catholic women.

4

The basic question still remains

The whole situation is so depressing and hopeless. I feel there is a total bankruptcy in terms of how to move ahead. There are just no ways and means of moving ahead being discussed here. You can have a stand and ideology in principle but the question is what do you do now.

Helplessness at lack of strength.



We discussed openly Maria's statement on maternal mortality, WB etc. Also tendency of some "experts" to shut down people when they are trying to express their doubts, and differences.

Today I raised my hand when she was speaking & kept it for five minutes then kept down later on ^{when she finished} they asked me to speak. I said I forgot.

• चूलाમાં रोटलो અને વડની નીચે ઓટલો

immediately after lunch.

chayanika.

I can reimburse you in dollars for however many taka you would like to exchange, so whatever you want to get rid of is fine. I am sorry you will be leaving so soon! 😞

We have come from a different world - a different environment. An environment where there is want, hunger, disease and all kinds of inequalities. Our language might be different from yours. Maybe our outlook is also different because the context of our thinking and understanding is different. We are just confident that like you we are aware of our questions and do identify with our struggles.

It's definite that ^{*} ~~is~~ ^{we} handling specific problems like dowry, 'sati' and infanticide. Then can you decide the ways and means of (* we are better in finding ways to handle) moving towards liberating our society bound by such shackles? No. We have been identifying the paths and will continue to do so.

Our struggle will be together but only when we decide upon our own methods ~~of~~ ~~doing~~ of struggling.

Kamaxi