

WE formed to curb havoc on Nepal's tourist sites

When, in the late '50s, tourists trickled into the valleys and crevasses of the Kingdom of Nepal, few could have estimated the environmental impact. While the brisk tourist trade which followed has sent the economy spiralling upward, it has also wrought havoc on the very center of tourists' attractions.

In their efforts to meet demands for "adequate" shelter, heat and food, the Nepalese are killing their forests, inviting floods and landslides. The waste and human refuse which line the centuries-old trails reflect foreigners' contempt for a land they come in awe of. And the ever encroaching cities, burgeoning with Nepalese eager to capitalize on tourist dollars, also contribute to the growing environmental pollution.

Women in Environment arose out of this crisis. Through action programs, research projects and environmental education, WE is working to heighten environmental awareness among the Nepalese. Last year, along with a number of local government and non-governmental organizations, WE organized a national seminar, "The Role of Women in Environmental Conservation."

Through its cooperation with other environmental and women's groups WE is organizing around the issues of development activities, overgrowth of population, increasing urbanization, deforestation and the overuse of vehicles and their impact on nature.

WE is made up of a cross-section of Nepali professional society, including doctors, lawyers, naturalists and environmentalists.

WE is trying to build a network of women's environmental groups globally and is searching for new contacts and resources. For more information, write to:

Women in Environment
P.O. Box 4851 Radhakuti Arcade
Third floor, Ramshah Path
Kathmandu, Nepal.



Human rights from a feminist perspective

The Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC) is a new Asian organization made up of women who want to use a feminist perspective to understand human rights and development

The council focuses attention on the abuse, exploitation and violence Asian women suffer. It documents, highlights and reinforces effective strategies for action initiated by grassroots women's groups which respond to human rights violations.

With Ms. Nelia Sancho-Liao as regional coordinator, the Manila-based AWHRC also:

- organizes or sponsors seminars, workshops or consultations at the national and regional levels in order to develop a new understanding of human rights and promote feminist concerns in that field;

- fosters solidarity and concerned action among women's groups, organizations, leaders and supporters in the region to promote women's human rights and people's rights;

- documents the women's human rights situation in different Asian countries;

- conducts information campaigns and publishes important information and educational materials on women's human rights, issues and concerns;

- supports and strengthens the council's member groups in different Asian countries; and

- builds networks and linkages with various groups, organizations, institutions in the region and the world.

For more information, write to:

Asian Women's Human Rights Council
P.O. Box 190
1099 Manila
The Philippines.



IRENE focuses on int'l division of labor

The International Restructuring Education Network of Europe (IRENE) is a non-governmental, independent and non-profit organization that specializes in the issues of trade, employment, investment in new technology, regional development and the environment. IRENE is also concerned with women's issues.

The network is open to community-based non-governmental organizations, trade unions and action research organizations from all over and which are involved in development education and the international division of labor.

For information, contact:
Anneke van Luijken
Executive Secretary
IRENE
Stationsstraat 39
5038 E C Tilburg
The Netherlands
tel. no. 31-13-35-15-23
fax no. 31-13-35-02-53.



Women's work subject of slide shows

The Abhivyakti Media for Development in India produces media material, conducts training in effective communication and networking, and collaborates with other non-governmental organizations in forming appropriate media materials.

Abhivyakti, which means "expression" in the native tongue, is a volunteer group based in Nashik, a rural district of Maharashtra. It collaborates with two other rural development organizations in organizing the tribals on the environmental issue.

"Women's Labor," a slide-tape presentation, was recently produced for airing before rural women's groups to raise their awareness on the contribution they give to society. Too often, the male is the exalted breadwinner and the woman considered a dependent. Her contribution to the family income is considered

Domestics in Namibia unite

The Domestic Workers' Association of Namibia (Dowana), a small, community-based service organization with a fulltime organizer renting a small office temporarily in town, aims to create an awareness among domestic workers.

It was launched in November 1988 by concerned domestic workers in response to the double oppression under which they are living.

The objectives of Dowana are:

- to help domestic workers regain their self-respect and defend their rights as members of the community;
- to work towards creating appropriate self-help projects such as cooperatives, credit unions and other income-generating schemes;
- to educate domestic workers on broader, political and socioeconomic issues, so as to make them aware of what is happening in the world;
- to conduct educational workshops, seminars and consultations that can help advance the value of a domestic worker;
- to give information on where to seek help when involved in work disputes; and
- to cooperate with other community-based organizations and non-government organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Full membership is open to domestic workers living in Katutura, Khomasdal and in town irrespective of race, color, sex, religion or political affiliation. Applicants must be willing to subscribe to the association's objectives.

Dowana's address is: P.O. Box 50155, Bachbre Windhock, Namibia, 9000. Contact persons are: Elizabeth Tjaronda, tel. (061) 36029; Francina Katjiuongua, (061) 215298 or 6757 Maroela; and Ellen Setshwantso, (061) 63 or at Rossing, Katutura.

— from *Sister*

marginal and her other labor (house-keeping, child-bearing and rearing) treated as non-work. The audio-visual makes women's work visible.

Abhivyakti has a media resource center stocked with books, journals and visual aids. The center caters to the needs of individuals and institutions. It is building a permanent data base on media material available in Maharashtra. Another function is promoting exchange of media production, experiences on dissemination and insights that would be useful in developing educational media aids.

For inquiries, write to:

Anita Borkar

Abhivyakti Media for

Development

P.O. Box No. 6

College Road

Nashik-5

India

