



A H I M S A C E N T E R
NONVIOLENCE IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona • College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

From Violence against Women to Affirming Life: A View on 'Women and Health' in India

A Dialogue with

Dr. Mira Sadgopal

Thursday, November 8, 2007, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Heritage Room, CLA Tower 8th Floor



Dr. Mira Dakin Sadgopal is Managing Trustee of *Tathapi*, (www.tathapi.com) a small center for 'Women and Health' Resource Development based in Pune, near Mumbai, and working throughout the state of Maharashtra in western India.

A native of California, Mira has been a citizen of India since 1977. She got her medical degree (MBBS) from Bombay University in 1974. Then for sixteen years she worked with Kishore Bharati, a community based rural development project in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. There she collaborated with the women members of a landless laborer's union to run "Zaroori Dawai ki Suvidha", a local village co-operative "essential medicines facility". With them, she carried out a local study on child deaths, which they called 'Falling Blossoms.' She also began her work in Fertility Awareness Education with these women. Since the seventies, off and on, she has engaged with traditional indigenous midwives.

Following the Union Carbide factory gas leak disaster in Bhopal in December 1984, Mira joined the medical relief effort among the survivors. She was involved with the first investigation into the health consequences among women and authored the first health awareness book for the survivors. She continues her involvement with them today as a board member of the Sambhavna Trust, Bhopal.

After shifting to Pune in 1990, she was awarded the Ashoka 'Innovators for the Public' fellowship to continue her work in fertility awareness education (1992-95). Since 1993, she has been an active core member of the 'Women and Health' (WAH!) Program at both national and state levels, for the training of health program co-ordinators. Currently Mira is organizing the **Jeeva Project**, a collective investigation with traditional indigenous midwives of India and south Asia into a unique aspect of the tradition, the revival of a newborn by stimulating the placenta.

Mira Sadgopal is the author of *In Our Hands*, a workbook for women in fertility and sexuality awareness, published by Tathapi. She has edited two books: *Her Healing Heritage* and *Na Shariram Nadhi - My Body is Mine* and has authored several articles. Recently she contributed by editing the *Indian Women's Health Charter* that emerged out of a nationwide process in 2006 called *National Dialogue: Women, Health and Development* (follow-up to the 10th International Women and Health Meeting held in New Delhi in 2005).

She is the recipient of the 2007 **Chingari Award** for *Women Against Corporate Crimes* given annually to a woman activist advancing the cause of a community fighting corporate criminal activity in India.

Co-hosted by the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Club, Ethnic and Women Studies Department

Event is free. Please RSVP to ahimsacenter@csupomona.edu by Wednesday, November 7.

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For Directions visit the Center web site www.csupomona.edu/ahimsacenter