



Women in Science

An Indian Academy of Sciences Initiative

Indian Academy of Sciences

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The Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore has set up a panel on Women in Science (WiS), to examine and address issues of relevance to the participation of women in the sciences. Two of the initiatives of the WiS panel will feature at the Annual Meeting of the Academy to be held in IIT Delhi during 31st October to 2nd November, 2008.

The book "Lilavati's Daughters: The women scientists of India", will be released by the President of the Academy, Prof. D Balasubramanian on 31st October, 2008 at 9.50 am during the inaugural session of the annual meeting.

In addition there will be a symposium on 'Women in Science' on 1st November, 2008 where there will be a panel discussion featuring Dr. Vineeta Bal (National Institute of Immunology, Delhi), Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), Prof. Saman Habib (Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow), Prof. Indira Nath (Blue Peter Research Centre, Lepa Society, Hyderabad), Prof. Sujatha Ramdorai (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai) etc.

This latter event will take place between 12 and 1:30 p.m in the seminar hall at IIT Delhi.

'Lilavati's Daughters: the women scientists of India' is a collection of (auto)biographical essays of about 100 women scientists who have worked and are working in India. The name is drawn from The Lilavati, a twelfth century treatise in which the mathematician Bhaskaracharya addresses a number of problems to his daughter, Lilavati. Although legend has it that Lilavati never married, her intellectual legacy lives on in the form of her daughters - the women scientists of India.

Covering a range of disciplines in these essays about 100 Indian women scientists talk of what brought them to science, what kept their interest alive, and what has helped them achieve some measure of distinction in their careers. What makes a successful career in science possible for a woman? Many answers to this question can be found somewhere in the essays written by Lilavati's Daughters.

The book is directed towards the reading public. A young student with research ambitions will find this an important collection where she or he can learn firsthand of women who functioned and achieved their goals in the Indian social and academic environment. Others will also find the essays to be of value and interest for what they say. And as is often the case, also for what they do not say...

Details of the activities of the WiS Panel can be found online at <http://www.ias.ac.in/womeninscience>