Woman’s Participation in the Economic Development of Lebanon and the Arab Countries

Dr. Huda Zurayk discussed in her paper the methods to be used in supporting woman’s participation in the economic development of Lebanon and the Arab countries and gave the following points:

1. Necessity of evaluating woman’s work within and outside the home:
   - Part-time work outside the home;
   - Economic activities within the family, such as food preparation, gardening, sewing, embroidery;
   - Seasonal work in the field;
   - Irregular work outside the home.

2. Necessity of changing the old method of a general statistically inaccurate report by resorting to the “multivariate techniques of analysis” which bring out the complex relations between variants and the way of testing them. The more recent statistical methods cover all the aspects of the study and form a sound basis for effective demographic strategies.

3. Necessity of woman’s employment in countries suffering from extensive male emigration, like Lebanon, and from shortage in the labor force, like the United Arab Emirates.

4. Necessity of taking into account the following changing conditions affecting woman’s status and her work in the family: the tendency to limit the number of children, house duties made easier through technology, growing number of nurseries and kindergartens, and desire of educated housewives to participate in outside activities.

Conclusion:
Arab countries should take the above points into consideration and adopt effective national strategies which will help and encourage woman’s integration in development and participation in economic activity. To be effective these strategies should be based on accurate statistical information and help to change the people’s mentality regarding woman’s work.

The Lebanese Family Planning Association (LFPA) Discusses the Woman’s Status in Lebanon

A panel discussing the present status of the Lebanese woman and pointing out priorities in her demands and duties, was held in Beirut on 4-6 November 1982. The participants consisted of LFPA representatives and delegates of women’s social organizations in Lebanon. A few papers were presented, some of which will be summarized in subsequent issues.

Projected Recommendations
The recommendations proposed by the Panelists defined the present status of the Lebanese woman as “Lacking all the prerogatives allowing her full participation in development”. Legal, social and educational discrimination against woman prevents her normal evolution. UNO agreements regarding woman have not been observed by the Lebanese government. Female illiteracy, traditional socialization of children, lack of health education among women contribute to the perpetuation of their retarded condition.

Recommendations include the following:

1. Creation of adequate and progressive vocational schools for girls and boys.
2. Revision of the programs of civic education in school curricula.
3. Increasing the number of nurseries and social welfare centers.
4. Encouraging the creation of cooperatives for domestic rural industries.
5. Adoption of the field-workers experiment by the various women’s organizations and the Social Welfare Centers, on condition that training courses be previously arranged for the candidates.
6. Abolition of all discriminatory laws against women on the civil, penal and educational levels.
7. Unification of the personal status laws through a secularization project including the establishment of civil marriage.
8. Introducing adequate protective measures for the working woman in the Labor Code.
9. Creating a social welfare service for war orphans.

Finally, a noteworthy contribution of the LFPA was the preparation of a project for training experts in an intensive home economics program for young women in the Central Bekaa district.