

A GLANCE INTO THE STATUS OF THE MOROCCAN WOMAN⁽¹⁾

Since Morocco achieved its independence in 1956, the Moroccan woman has played, within her limited means, an active role in national development.

According to the census of 1980, Morocco has a population of about 20 million, 50% of whom are women. Since 1956, free compulsory education on the elementary level is required for both sexes. Female education has been progressing slowly. In 1969-70, the proportion of females on the elementary school level was 43% of the whole. It rose to 56% in 1979-80. In secondary schools, the proportion rose from 25% in 1968 to 35% in 1980. In higher education, the proportion of women progressed from 3% in 1954 to 10% in 1969 and to 18% in 1980. Women have been showing more interest than before in the study of applied sciences. A good many of them are preparing to be physicians, pharmacists, architects, lawyers and judges.

Before 1960, illiteracy among women reached 87% as against 66% among men but, since then, it

has been reduced to 73% against 56%. This proportion applies more to urban than rural districts which contain 50% of the population. For this reason they deserve particular help, especially on the levels of education, health care, orientation and development of family income.

According to the Moroccan Constitution, women should enjoy equal rights with men in politics, education and work conditions. Working women have a paid maternity leave of two months. Nursing mothers benefit from a law allowing them two daily half-hour rest periods during the first eight months following childbirth.

Constitutional laws, however, are not justly applied. Sexual equality is not practiced, especially in the area of family laws. An adult girl is not free to choose her future husband. She is not allowed to travel without the permission of her father, husband or guardian. Social Security laws deprive her of the right to legate her pension to her children, while men are given this right.

Since our men recognize the value of woman's participation in development, they are expected to make it more effective through further legal reforms and strict implementation of constitutional laws.

(1) By Rabi'a Harakat, Arabic article published by *Al-Khidma al-lamiya lil-Mar'a l'Arabiya* (Information, Demography, Development and Reconstruction Studies, Damascus).

OUT OF 11,094 BANK EMPLOYEES IN LEBANON, 3,933 ARE WOMEN

In a report published by the Banks Association in Lebanon on the status of bank employees in 1980, an important increase in their number is noticed, in comparison to preceding years. The number of women has increased by 14.3% over that of last year, while the number of men has had only a 5.3% increase. More than a third of the total number of employees are women.

(*Le Reveil*, 4 June 1981)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN KUWAIT

«The General Union of Trade Unions, in concluding its first annual conference in Kuwait, called for the implementation of laws respecting freedom in the Arab World and for granting full political and social rights to women. The conference also called for an increase in annual leave in the government sector from 30 to 45 days and for maternity leave for women from 2 to 3 months regardless of the length of service.»

«*Women at Work*» an ILO News Bulletin 2/1980, quoted from *Arab Times*, Kuwait, 29 May 1980

AL-RAIDA, A QUARTERLY
PUBLISHED BY IWSAW

P.O.B. 13-5053
Beirut University College
Beirut - Lebanon
Cable address : BECOGE

STAFF

Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr - Director
Rose Ghurayyib - Editor
Dr. Jane Leasor - Co-Editor
Nuha Azar - Secretary
Unsigned articles were written by the Editor

Yearly Contribution :

L.L. 15 in Lebanon or U.S. \$ 10 or
equivalent abroad, paid directly or
by postal order to B.U.C.