

**A TRAINING PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY
LEBANESE FAMILY
PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

Aida Shamma, Public Health expert employed by IWSAW, represented the Institute at the training program planned for the local leaders of the Zahrani area of South Lebanon, sponsored by the Lebanese Family Planning Association on Saturday, 30th of August 1977, under the auspices of his excellency the Mayor of the South, Mr. Halim Fayyad.

The training session took place in Sidon from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. followed by a luncheon. The program entailed a word of welcome and appreciation of the work of the LFPA given by the Mayor, followed by a resumé of the work by Dr. Adnan Mroueh and finally the objectives of family planning in Lebanon by Mr Toufik Osseyran. After a break, a symposium attended by almost 50 people from the Zahrani area was directed by Bishop Gregoire Haddad who gave the point of view of Christianity and family planning. Mr. Toufik Osseyran, who replaced Sheikh Ali Mehdi Ibrahim, gave the point of view of Islam, and Dr. Karam Karam gave the medical view-point. The attendants, experts, and the speakers divided into 3 discussion groups and topics:

1. The social and religious impact on family planning (which Aida joined)
2. The economic and demographic impact.
3. The medical impact on the family planning activities.

Recommendations were made by each of the groups. Reports in the final assembly climaxed the training session.

**NEW LAW FOR EQUALITY
OF THE SEXES
IN LEBANON**

Very recently, the "Parliamentary Committee for administration and Justice" in Lebanon has theoretically approved the project of a law which would effect equality of the sexes along certain lines in which the principle of equality is violated. In other words, the project claims the abolition of 1) the law which refuses the testimony of women in real estate courts, 2) the law which prevents women from starting business enterprises without their husbands' agreement 3) the law which requires married women to obtain a permit from their husbands before taking a trip abroad.

**PROGRESS ACHIEVED
IN WOMEN'S
STUDIES PROGRAMS**

The number of universities and colleges which offer courses and programs in Women's Studies keeps increasing. According to the Women's Studies Newsletter vol. 4 No. 1, Winter 1976, published by the Feminist Press in N.Y., the number of U.S. colleges and universities offering such a program has reached 150. Since 1973, the plan of the formation of a national Women's Studies Association is being carefully studied and discussed. Women at San Jose University have begun to plan a national conference for this purpose. The same issue of Women's Studies Newsletter published a list of 42 recently published (1968-1974) picture books with female heroes. The authors of these books include both men and women.

**UNICEF Activities
for Integrating
Women
in Development**

In a recent report on UNICEF activities for integrating women in development, published on July 17, 1977, the Regional Family Welfare Officer, Dr. Hoda Badran, presented a proposed plan for developing women's integration processes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

After pointing out the increasing positive attitude towards girls' education and women's employment in Arab countries, the author says that UNICEF will continue to support the two regional centers of Al-Azhar and the league of Arab States in working out programs which they plan to realize by 1980. These includes 1) "Documented and classified true Islamic teaching regarding women in a series of publications", 2) institutionalized special methodologies for working with individuals, groups and communities and for promoting women on the basis of Islamic teaching, 3) a system of collecting data on women for all countries of the region, 4) a system of analysis of such data and monitoring changes and trends in the situation of Arab women, etc.

The report proposes new projects as part of the activities of the International Year for the Child, involving mothers in the designing and delivering of child welfare services, including studies, meetings and workshop training.

1. — "Signs", the "journal of women in culture and Society", was created in 1975 to be published quarterly by a group of university women in U.S.A., assisted by a large advisory board, editorial board, and a number of international correspondents. This magazine, as the editorial of No. 1, Vol. 2 states, aims "to represent the originality and rigor of the new thinking about women, sexuality, sex roles, the social institutions in which the sexes have participated, the culture men and women have inherited, inhabited and created. We also want signs to point to directions modern scholarship, thought and policy can take".

2. — "Journal of the Social Sciences"

"An academic quarterly with articles in Arabic and English, published by the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Science at Kuwait Uni-

versity, concerned with issues pertaining to theories and/or application of theories in the various fields of the social sciences".

Received by IWSAW Vol VI, No 3, 1976, Vol. IV, No. 2 and No. 4, 1977. Address: Kuwait University, P.O.Box 5486, Kuwait.

3. — A voluminous report has been published by Ministry of Labor, Department of Woman Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the "Second Symposium on Manpower Development: the role of the Jordanian Woman", held in Amman, April 4-7, 1976.

The report includes the texts of seven research papers on the role of the Jordanian woman in education, social and medical care and mass media; her work within the family, in technical specialties and professions and in economic activities.

STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS ON WOMEN RECENTLY ACQUIRED by IWSAW Library

1. "Women in Islam: Comments and Clarifications"

by Saneya A.W. Saleh
American University of Cairo, 1976

2. Report on the relationship between educational opportunities and employment opportunities for women

Unesco Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Paris 1975

3. World Conference of the International Women's Year (8 publications)

United Nations Mexico City, 19 June — 2 July 1975

4. 1975

International Women's Year

A fortnightly bulletin for the news media
Unesco Features

5. Comparative Study of Co-education

Unesco, Paris 1970

6. The Contribution of Food Aid to the Improvement of Women's Status

U.N. World Conference of the International Women's Year, 1975

7. Talking Family Planning

A fieldwork handbook
International Planned Parenthood Federation
London 1975

8. A statistical panorama of education in the Arab countries published by:

The Regional Centre for Educational Planning and Administration in the Arab countries
Beirut 1972

A Bibliography on the Arab Woman

Compiled by the
Institute for Women's
Studies in the Arab World

Considering the scarcity of sources and references on the Arab Woman, and the growing interest in accurate knowledge about her status, activities, and rapid evolution in our present age, the IWSAW has been currently compiling a bibliography on the Arab Woman, due to be published by the end of 1977. It will be in English, including books and periodical articles,

basically covering all aspects of the status of the Arab woman: educational, social, economic, cultural, legal and religious. Countries included are those of North Africa, the Arab Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr
Director,
Institute for Women's
Studies in the Arab
World
Beirut University College
P.O.Box 11-4080
Beirut, Lebanon

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

P.O.B. 11 - 4080
Telex : BECOGE - Tel. : 25 25 90
Beirut University College
Beirut - Lebanon

STAFF

Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr - Director
Miss Rose Ghurayyib
Mrs. Irene Lorfing
Miss Nuha Azar
Miss Mona Barakat

Yearly Subscription :

L.L. 10 or US \$ 5 or equivalent
Paid directly or by postal order to B.U.C.

IWSAW was founded 1973