



al-raida

BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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Forward

The increasing consciousness of the important role that women can play in world-development today, finds its expression in various ways, one of which is the Women's Liberation Movement that is successfully organizing its activities in strategic areas of the more developed countries. Another major influence is the growing interest of the United Nations Organization, promoting the education of women and encouraging their full participation in multiple and varied women's program development. Both cultural forces reflect the changing image and status of women in world society.

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) has repeatedly pointed out this new identity through current newsletters and other forms of media publicity. It is a shared effort to promote the increasing awareness of the role that women should play in the Arab World. Already the IWSAW projects in the field of documentation, research and information are progressing, in spite of current conditions in Lebanon where the main activity is centered. In this newsletter issue, some information is given about these active projects, while other Institute ideas mentioned remain in the planning stage. For example 1) a Literacy Project or Basic Living Skills program was submitted to a number of U.N. and other international organizations by the Director of the Institute, Dr Julinda Abu-Nasr, presenting a comprehensive integrated program. It addresses the needs of Arab Women in health, nutrition hygiene, child care, housing, budgeting, management, rural skills, community development and general education; 2) "The Children's Literature Project for the Arab Countries", also proposed by the Director of the Institute and submitted to the Arab Fund, to the United Nations, and to other international organizations. It proposes the creation of models for quality children's books and educational programs in Arabic.

Success of these two vital projects depends on donations expected from Arab nations, the U.N. and International Funds. It is the hope of IWSAW that persistent solicitation and repeated stress on the social value of these projects will persuade more donors to fund these critical needs and to provide the Institute with the necessary operating budget for project completion.

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