

## "Social and Academic Adjustment of University Women of the Arab Gulf States"

This is the title of a field study prepared by Dr. Isaac Kotb, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the "Kuwait University", published in 1975. The study attempts to determine the attitude of women students at the Kuwait University toward certain social and academic problems like the following: choice of a major and factors influencing this choice, equality of right to education for both sexes, vocational orientation of women, married women and work, family planning, problems facing the modern family, political and nationalistic trends.

The study shows that the proportion of Kuwaiti women students at K.U. reaches 55% of the whole number of women at the university. The proportion of

women is superior to that of men, being 60-64% of the whole student body in all departments except those of law and jurisprudence.

The results of the study show that 78% of the women students use their own judgment in the choice of their major and do not yield to outside influences; 64% are planning to work after graduation, while 26% intend to pursue their studies; 83% favor co-education at university level; the majority (79%) believe that women have the same right as men to education at its various levels. Most of them (73%) reject the idea that marriage between an educated man and a non-educated woman is more likely to ensure stability of marriage; 75% also reject the tradition which pretends that marriage with one's kinsfolk is more stable

than marriage outside the family.

The vocations they prefer, listed according to priority, are as follows: teaching, social work, medicine, government employment, law, industrial work.

The public sector is more attractive to them than the private sector, probably because it offers more stability. 89% prefer marrying an educated man of limited means to marrying a rich suitor. 65% believe in woman's right to participate in political elections.

On the whole, the results obtained by Dr. Kotb seem to reflect a progressive evolutionary spirit in women students of the young Kuwait University, founded only 10 years ago.

### The Lebanese Ministry of Labor Confirms Principle of Equal Rights for the Sexes

In a detailed report presented to the Arab League in December 1977, the Lebanese Ministry of Labor expounded the steps taken by the Lebanese Government regarding the application of the laws stipulated by the Social Work Document in accordance with recommendations received from the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs' Conference, previously held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The report stresses the application of the law which grants women the same rights as men in the field of labor, according to international agreements promulgated by the International Labor Organization. The first agreement, no. 100, asserts for both sexes equal pay for equal work. The

second, no. 111, forbids racial discrimination concerning the right of the individual to work and job protection.

The Parliamentary Commission for Administration and Justice had already approved in its meeting of June 8, 1977, the project of a law confirming equality of the sexes by amending all legal texts which violate the principle of equality. (See Al-Raida, no. 2, p. 11).

The report adds that equal opportunities for education and training are open to Lebanese men and women. The National Committee for struggle against illiteracy is active in the field of training adult women.

### Women's History Research Center 2325 Oak Street Berkeley, California

IWSAW has received an information pamphlet about the Women's History Center in Berkeley, which "from 1968 to 1974 collected and organized over a million documents relating to the role of women in our society."

Major collections are published on microfilms: "Her story" contains complete issues of woman's serials; the Women and Health, Mental Health, Women and Law microfilms include articles gathered from women's publications, mass and alternative press, professional journals and unpublished pamphlets and manuscripts from all over the world.

Microfilm library available on request.