

"JUVENILE DELINQUENTS"

by Dr. Mustapha Hijazi
Beirut, 1975
(in Arabic)

This is a psychological-sociological field study in 488 large-size pages, prefaced by a discussion of the various theories regarding delinquency and the way these theories help to understand it as a social problem. It is followed by a statistical study of the number of delinquents in Lebanon, their geographical distribution, their family status, information obtained from social workers in charge of delinquents and finally, a clinical study of the cases with the purpose of discovering the pathological factors that led them to delinquency, such as neurotic phenomena and environmental factors.

The author declares that the statistics contained in his work do not refer to all the delinquents in Lebanon but are limited to those who were received in rehabilitation institutes and whose cases had been handled by the juvenile courts set up by the "Juvenile Welfare Union."

The book is based on factual information and field analysis of the cases studied, including their psychology, their personal characteristics, and the possibilities of reforming them.

On p. 204, the author says: "The answers we have received prove that

'we are handling a problem with a purely social basis, derived from defective conditions of child care and protection, a lack of appropriate methods, and a shortage of equipment for the child's scholastic, vocational, and social adjustment. In many cases, adjustment will become possible when the appropriate conditions are fulfilled.'

A final remark: the book is a study of boy delinquents and makes no mention of girls belonging to this category, either because the scope of the work has no space for them, or because the sources for their study are not available.

Margaret Mead's Paper on Women and Agriculture

This paper was prepared for the American Association for the Advancement of Science Seminar on "Woman and Development", in 1975. Here is an abstract of it.

Women's knowledge of agriculture is a heritage of the past. In ancient times, they played a very important role in agriculture while men devoted most of their time to hunting and exploration. Before the agricultural revolution, women were the main producers of food, but now they have been converted, in industrialized countries, from producers of food to consumers only.

War-time experience in Europe has demonstrated that women are capable of using modern agricultural machinery.

The services that women can

render to agriculture are not limited to manipulation of machinery. They should be consulted regarding the use of traditional food resources, the knowledge of which is often their own province.

Emphasis has been placed on the production of food, a process now nearly monopolized by men. The function of women as preservers and consumers has been neglected, hence the discrepancy between production and consumption, often leading to severe material and scientific losses.

Food preservation, nutrition, child development, and home management were taught in home economics schools for females and agricultural schools for males. But, recently, nutrition and home economics in general became devalued

as female fields, and the segregation of occupational training resulted in grave dangers for the process of nutrition and consumption.

Margaret Mead proposes the creation of departments or schools in which all the skills related to food, including plant genetics, animal husbandry, veterinary skills, nutrition, child development, food management, etc., are taught without discrimination to both men and women.

According to her, "only in this way can there be any hope of including women at every level of the decision-making process and restoring the concept that the primary function of food is to feed people and feed them well and not to serve as a form of national aggrandizement."

"Law and the Status of Women (1)"

(English)

"International Women's Year gave needed impetus to research on the status of women in many countries. Many non-governmental organizations undertook studies within their fields of interest and competence." One of these, the **International Advisory Committee on Law and Population**, which has consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, focused on the legal status of women. The committee invited lawyers from fifteen countries covering various geographic regions and a variety of legal systems, to write on the legal status of women in their respective countries; and these monographs have been published by the Columbia Human Rights Law Review.

The fifteen countries included in these studies are: Brazil, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Peru, the Philippines, Sweden, Togo, the United States, and Yugoslavia. The executive secretary of the Committee in question, Dr. Luke T. Lee, says in the introduction of the book that it is "hopefully the first of a series which will eventually cover the laws affecting the status of women of all countries."

The purpose of the book is to urge governments "to review their legislation affecting the status of women in the light of human rights principles and internationally accepted standards."

To ensure comprehensiveness within a limited space as well as to facilitate comparability of different laws, each of the contributors was requested to follow a suggested uniform table of contents. A general review of the fifteen studies brings out the following points:

1. There is a recognized need in each country to remove laws discriminating against women and to enact new laws to raise their status to the levels prescribed by the United Nations conventions.

2. The recommendations included emphasize similar fields of law as needing reform. Among these are changes in family law pertaining to marriage, including a minimum age for marriage; polygamy; inheritance; property rights; divorce alimony; child support; and family planning. Other areas include complete equality before the law, provisions for employment opportunities in government, access to education and vocational training, equal compensation, pension benefits, and child care facilities.

Emphasis is placed on the need to transform recommendations for legal reforms into actual reforms. A law which has been passed, but has not been enforced, remains useless. In some countries where women have obtained the right to vote, enslavement to tradition leads them to vote in accordance with the wishes of their husbands or other male members of their family, thus allowing men to have two votes while women have none.

Finally, legal reform alone is not enough. "All the resources of a country must be channeled into making equality a fact." In many countries where equality of the sexes has been recognized by law, women are still excluded from leadership positions and high managerial offices.

"The future," as Princess Ashraf Pahlavi of Iran says, "depends greatly on the degree to which women throughout the world mobilize their energies and resources to persuade their governments and legislatures to integrate the problems related to betterment of the condition of women within their overall socio-economic and legislative programs."

(1) Edited by the Columbia Human Rights Law Review Columbia University School of Law. (in English).

"Report on 'Arab Panel' for planning and overseeing nurseries and kindergardens"

(Arabic)

This panel was held in Damascus, 15-24 February, 1977, under the auspices of the Syrian-Arab Women's Union, in conjunction with the "General Arab Women's Union" and in cooperation with the Unicef Organization.

The panel grouped delegates of nine Arab countries, in addition to those of the Syrian Arab Republic and four representatives from Unicef.

Lectures were delivered and discussed by a large number of specialists and experts in the field. The main topics were: social adjustment among children; basic principles in the organization and provision of day care for children; hygienic guidance; choice and training of kindergarden teachers; technical superintendence in K.G.; evaluation: its philosophy, tools, methods, and investment in progressive K.G. activities; Arab cooperation in the field of pre-school child education; utilization of the multiple international services; questionnaires relating to the status and needs of kindergardens in participating countries; and a questionnaire concerning an evaluation of the panel, of its methods and its results.

Though it seems impossible to give an accurate idea about this voluminous report of 395 typed pages, we can judge its value by the fact that it has brought together a large number of experts and specialists in the educational field and allowed them to exchange knowledge and experience in well-organized and documented lectures, followed by discussions and questionnaires.

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