

# Progress Reports from Bahrain

Reports issued by the Social Development Section, Directorate of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Bahrain, 1977.

1- "Social Indicators for Bahrain", published in Arabic and English, contains the latest statistics on population growth, housing, health, education and culture, employment, social development and welfare, situation of women. Some of the diagrams include comparative statistics about the various Arab countries.

The following figures quoted from the statistical tables serve as examples of the rapid growth achieved in female education and developmental work:

Percentage of females between 7 & 14 attending school:

In 1959: 37 %

In 1971: 66 %

Females participating in labor force:

In 1959: 3 % of the whole

In 1971: 5,4 %

Females in secondary general education:

In 1965-66: 28,4 %

In 1974-75: 54,3 %

2- "an-Nashra al-Dawriyyah" A

quarterly publication reporting on activities and achievements of the Social Affairs Directorate, Ministry of labor and Social Affairs.

Published by the "Research and Social Statistics Unit", this number (no 15, 1978) contains reports from: the Directorate of Social Affairs, the Social Development Section, the Local Social Activity Unit, the Social Development Projects Unit, followed by statistical tables and texts of lectures and studies dealing with the social and economic needs of the Bahraini women.

3- "Directory of Local Welfare Associations."

Of the eight associations in existence, five are women's societies, the other three are mixed or including only men. The Red Crescent Association has the largest membership: 650 in 1977. The other associations deal with family planning, child and mother welfare, literacy and cultural programs, help of the needy and handicapped, establishing friendly relations with Arab and foreign women residing in Bahrain.

4- "Recent Social Projects"

In an introductory word published in the above mentioned directory, Mr. Jamil Jushi, director of social affairs in Bahrain, gives the following

account on new social projects started by the Ministry, with the help and coordination of the Local Social Welfare Organizations:

1) One of the projects, started in 1977, is that of training families with a low income in productive activities which would help them improve their financial conditions.

2) Social service has been extended to rural districts through the use of movable units conducted by social workers and home economics experts.

3) Another project is the establishment of social centers where workers are trained in various fields of development and social welfare. Affiliated with this project is one which trains women pioneers in child care and house-keeping for a period of 5 months, after which they are required to communicate their experience to families in their respective districts. Already 21 pioneers have been trained and it is hoped that in 1982 their number will reach 100.

4) A complete program for the rehabilitation of the handicapped, planned by a group of experts, has already been implemented in Issa town. Also an old people's home and a child welfare center are included in the development plan for 1978-1982.