

Evaluation of home-based employment programmes for Lebanese rural women

This study which was prepared by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) & published 25 Aug. 1978, is a follow-up to an earlier study entitled "Institutions and Organizations concerned with the participation of Lebanese rural women in development," published by ECWA, 23 Oct. 1974.

It attempts to "assess the actual impact which the home-based self-employment programmes have on their rural women recipients and to determine measures for making these programmes more effective."

Population of the study:

It covers the beneficiaries of 14 Lebanese organizations, 12 non-governmental, covering all rural areas of Lebanon.

Total number of respondents:

124 women, nearly one half under 20 yrs of age and 86 % below 30.

Level of education:

More than 50 % had elementary education
14 % illiterate or semi-illiterate
30 % intermediate education

Programme characteristics:

Developmental rather than service

Types of programme:	Number	Per cent
1. Carpet-making	18	15
2. Dress-making	23	18
3. Embroidery	23	18
4. Combination of crafts: dress-making & embroidery, Knitting, crocheting sewing	28	23
5. Multipurpose program: a combination of handicrafts, home economics and other educational components	25	20
6. Academic — technical programme involving a normal academic progr. & rural crafts	7	6

Place of work

A majority of 71 % worked at home
One fifth worked in the centres of their respective organizations.

Attitudes of parents and husbands

A certain resistance (25 %) toward their women's work outside the home. Preference for home — based employment.

Motives behind participation

One third said that they sought financial benefit.
The rest considered this work as a way of escape from a socially strict rural milieu.

Income

32 % got over LL 150 monthly
35 % got over LL 50 or less monthly
Average income for all centered around LL 100

Recommendations.

1. Enlargement of the programmes to include additional crafts and to accommodate more girls.
2. Inclusion of basic principles of home-economics and first-aid under the general programmes.
3. Carpet-making and dress-making, because they have the greatest impact on income-generation, must be further promoted.
4. Other handicrafts to promote: basket-making, pickling, fruit-drying, making of children's clothes & toys.
5. Offering women who work in the fields some technical training related to various agricultural methods.
6. Providing more workshops run by the organizations as a means of helping to solve the marketing problem.
7. A marketing co-operative could be very effective as a means of selling products and expanding workshop activities.
8. Additional financial resources are needed to improve human and physical resources.