

SEXUALITY AND BIRTH
CONTROL DECISION
AMONG LEBANESE COUPLES.

by Mary Chamy

A study in 20 pages (Eng.), including tables and figures, analyzing sexual behaviour and factors related to birth control decisions among 530 women who used the facilities of the University Hospital Family Planning Program of the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

The study was published in Signs vol. 3, no. 1 Autumn 1977.

"NEW WOMAN, NEW FAMILY,
NEW GOD" (ENG.)

Report of a Consultation on the Impact of World Religions on Women and Development, Dec. 1976, Washington D.C. Center of Concern

A 24 pp. brochure, containing a report of the consultation, recommendations for future action, the list of 26 participants and the 5 Staff members of the Center of Concern.

WOMEN IN THE MUSLIM
WORLD (ENG.)

Edited by Lois Beck & Nikki Keddie

Harvard University Press
Cambridge, Massachusetts
& London, England 1978
698 pp.

"This book removes the veils of mystery and myth behind which Muslim women have long remained concealed from Western Eyes. Collected here are 33 original essays

written by experts who have lived and studied in the many countries discussed."

AL-YANBOOH
(THE SOURCE)

PUBLISHER:
NAUFAL PUBLISHING HOUSE
BEIRUT

A collection of short stories by the Lebanese novelist Emily Nasrallah dealing, as in her former works, with certain aspects of village life in Lebanon, depicting some of the problems which the modern young woman has to face in this country or else where. Some of the stories carry the mark of the Lebanese war; they uphold the virtues of faith, vision, courage and sacrifice. Other stories take the form of tales inspired by villagers' legends. The style is rhythmic and imaginative, suggesting the atmosphere of dreamland and the reminiscences of frustrated love and lost opportunities. The setting reproduces the Lebanese landscapes and their colorful scenery.

Announcement

The first six numbers of Al-Raida which, as a result of the painful circumstances in Lebanon, were issued irregularly, between 1976 and 1978, may be considered as vol. I.

Beginning 1979, we start vol. II and hope to have a regular quarterly publication. Missing numbers may be obtained from the Institute.

The legal status of Women in the Family a Source of Serious Social Problems

The Cairo Family Planning Association, in a seminar held on Feb. 14-16, 1978, published the following recommendations, condensed from WIN vol. 4, no. 3, Summer 1978:

"Studies and research indicate that the status of women in family law, currently carried out in Egypt, does not offer women a proper position in the family, a fact which leads to insecurity not only to woman but also to her family. To be constantly threatened by unrestricted divorce and polygamy causes women to lose psychological, social and economic security and exposes them to an uncertain future which they dread. As a result of which they resort to more child-bearing in the hope of attaining this security of which they are deprived. The increase in child-bearing results in the increase of population growth which is the main problem facing Egypt to-day,

Recommendations of the Seminar:

1 — To draft a comprehensive family code similar to the civil and penal codes etc. The drafting of such legislation enables every person male or female to take cognizance of their rights and obligations and of their specific legal status in advance, according to explicit and well-defined texts, instead of leaving these matters to the subjective interpretation and possible controversial views of jurists.

2 — To raise the minimum marriage age to the age of legal capacity for civil transactions for both sexes.

3 — Since work is a fundamental right for women according to the Public law, it is not permissible to restrict it because of marriage.

4 — Polygamy: it is not allowed for a man to marry another wife

unless he is permitted by the judge; this permission to be granted on the basis of justifiable reasons and the financial ability to maintain both wives; on condition that he advises both wives of his marriages. If the wife finds her husband's second marriage objectionable to her, she can sue for a court divorce and ask for indemnity.

5 — Divorce: Divorce should not take effect except on the pronouncement of a divorce sentence by the judge at the request of either party, after all attempts at reconciliation, by means of arbitration between the parties concerned, have failed. The judge should specify in his sentence if any abuse on the part of either husband or wife has occurred, in order to require an indemnity. If divorce takes place outside the court it is considered abusive and subsequently entails an indemnity for the injured party. Furthermore the man who divorces his wife outside of the court has to present a requisition for the registration of that divorce before the proper authority during a period of time to be legally determined. Otherwise he will receive the appropriate penalty set by the law.

6 — Custody: The girl should be in the mother's custody till her marriage. The boy should remain in her custody till the age of 14, the age at which his opinion should be taken regarding which parent he chooses to stay with. In all cases, consideration should be given to the conditions which qualify a mother to be the custodian of her children and, in all cases, the interest of the children should be paramount.

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