

# PROBLEMS FACED BY RE-ENTRY WOMEN TO BUC

## Summary of findings

This pilot study was an attempt at bringing out the characteristics and problems of re-entry women as well as serving as an encouragement to pursue further research in other colleges and universities throughout the area.

For the purpose of this study a questionnaire was administered in a personal interview to 28 women, 23 married and 5 single. It covered roughly 4 areas: The re-entry woman's background and family life, her motivation for returning, her status at BUC, and the recommendations that she wished to make. The majority of re-entry women at BUC are Lebanese ranging in age from 20-40, 36% of whom left school in order to get married and raise a family. None of the married women have more than 3 children ranging in age between five and twenty. The duration of their absence from college ranges from three months to twenty years with the majority falling between 10-20 years which is a long time to be away from one's profession.

Their coming back is portrayed as "catching up, keeping up, and forging ahead". The majority of the women in our sample are in agreement on the three equally

important major reasons for re-entry, namely: that of furthering one's knowledge, self fulfillment, and for adequate job opportunities. However, once they have become students again, their major problem is the balance of time between studying and homemaking which is evidenced by the fact that 43% are part-time students, taking one or two courses. Despite these difficulties they are very ambitious. Over ninety percent feel that a college degree is important and with one exception are all working for degrees.

The respondents had some recommendations for course offerings at BUC. Some courses were suggested for sheer enrichment of their leisure time, others for self fulfillment and still others, although offered at the AAS level, are in demand on the BA level. It is interesting to note that many courses center around the home and family.

As the findings are made known to various administrators, it is hoped that they will become more aware and concerned for the needs of re-entry women among the student body.

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