

What Is the LFPA⁽¹⁾

In his report, Mr. Toufiq Osseiran, General Secretary of LFPA, tried to show that the Association aims to answer an actual need in the social, hygienic and national areas. He insisted on the idea that its function is not limited to the administration of contraceptive pills but covers many other objectives such as:

1. Creating awareness among people in general and especially among the masses, regarding the nature and importance of the family planning movement and the necessity of introducing family education into school curricula and educational centers.

2. Arousing the interest of young people in the movement and preparing an adequate number of them to become leaders in the field.

3. Establishing a permanent contact with government authorities, first for the sake of amending the law regarding the sale and use of contraceptives; second, for introducing family education as a course in school curricula; third, for preparing information programs in mass media through the initiative and direction of the Educational Center for Research and Development; fourth, for developing the services performed by the Ministry of Public Health and General Welfare; fifth, for allowing working women an adequate maternity leave; and finally, for creating a special administrative body to take charge of demographic and family planning activities and problems.

Mr. Osseiran included in his report information about two projects undertaken by the Association. The first was the training of 120 women field workers who attended regular one-month sessions and received medical cards. The function of these field workers is not limited to the diffusion of knowledge regarding birth control. They serve as liaison officers between villagers and LFPA and are expected to inform the Development Centers of the needs of rural people in the way of cultural activities, cooperatives, training in certain skills and so on.

Another project was the creation of camps for young men who joined the work as volunteers and through close contact with villagers were able to study their conditions and discuss plans for meeting their needs.

Mr. Osseiran's report included statistics from field studies prepared by the Association in 1971, 1980 and 1981.

(1) Abstract of a report given by Mr. Toufiq Osseiran, General Secretary of the Lebanon Family Planning Association (LFPA) at the conference organized by the Association on demographic policies in Lebanon.