

## Woman's Participation in the Economic Development of Lebanon and the Arab Countries<sup>(1)</sup>

Dr. Huda Zurayk discussed in her paper the methods to be used in supporting woman's participation in the economic development of Lebanon and the Arab countries and gave the following points:

1. Necessity of evaluating woman's work within and outside the home:
  - Part-time work outside the home;
  - Economic activities within the family, such as food preparation, gardening, sewing, embroidery;
  - Seasonal work in the field;
  - Irregular work outside the home.
2. Necessity of changing the old method of a general statistically inaccurate report by resorting to the "multivariate techniques of analysis" which bring out the complex relations between variants and the way of testing them. The more recent statistical methods cover all the aspects

of the study and form a sound basis for effective demographic strategies.

3. Necessity of woman's employment in countries suffering from extensive male emigration, like Lebanon, and from shortage in the labor force, like the United Arab Emirates.
4. Necessity of taking into account the following changing conditions affecting woman's status and her work in the family: the tendency to limit the number of children, house duties made easier through technology, growing number of nurseries and kindergartens, and desire of educated housewives to participate in outside activities.

### Conclusion:

Arab countries should take the above points into consideration and adopt effective national strategies which will help and encourage woman's integration in development and participation in economic activity. To be effective these strategies should be based on **accurate statistical information** and help to change the people's mentality regarding woman's work.

<sup>(1)</sup> Condensed from a paper presented at the Second National Conference for Demographic Policies, organized by the LFPA, 1-3 April 1982. See Al-Raida, Nov. 1, 1982, vol. V, n<sup>o</sup>. 22, p. 10.