

Report from Indonesia

The PKK, a Family Welfare Development Movement.

From Indonesia, the host country where the AWI Conference was held, we have no general report about women's activities or about their integration in higher education as represented by Satyr Wacana Christian University where the Conference members met. We have, on the other hand, an interesting report about a recent movement launched there in 1970 and sponsored by the Minister of Home Affairs. It is the "Family Welfare Development", which aims "to support the nation building scheme by means of establishing healthy and prosperous families." Both men and women have to participate in the project but women's role needs to be strengthened and encouraged through the improvement of their knowledge and skills in various fields in accordance with their needs and abilities. The Indonesian name of the movement is "Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga" or "PKK", for short.

In the guideline prepared for program implementation, women's activities were defined as follows:

1. Mutual cooperation: help should be given to women encouraging them to implement cooperation in the family and in society.
2. Food: women should learn how to prepare healthy and nutritious food for the family.
3. Clothing: women will be helped to evaluate proper clothing, they will be taught how to dress properly and how to make clothes for themselves and for others.
4. Housing and household management are included in the program.

5. Education and skill training, increasing their knowledge in child care and character education.
6. Health: learning how to take care of their health and that of the family and how to improve health conditions in the environment.
7. Developing cooperative life, applying democracy within the family.
8. Planning for the family's future. Learning methods of budgeting or effecting balanced income and expenditure.

The PKK has succeeded in attracting a good number of women participants particularly in rural areas. It has not only helped to increase family welfare but it has also allowed women to receive training in money-earning jobs like dress-making, embroidery, food production, hair-dressing, cosmetic art and other home industries. In the rural areas, women who have become active members of the PKK are more responsive to new ideas such as selling crops through cooperatives instead of taking them directly to the market. Their participation in the movement has had positive effects on their personalities. They are eager to learn, daring to take risks, more independent and self-confident.

PKK's type of organization makes it difficult to give an exact evaluation of the results, but we know that the number of rural women participating in the work force has increased as a result of their joining the movement.

Every year, the Indonesian Government gives awards to women who have been successful in preserving, developing or creating positive changes in their environment. Many of the prize winners belong to the PKK group.

