

The AIDOS Project

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, (IWSAW) was selected to take part in an international project aimed at establishing four documentation centers -specialized in women's human, civic, labor and reproductive rights- in four Arab countries: Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The main objective of the project is to create an information network of women's organizations throughout the Mediterranean area.

The project is subsidized by the European Commission within the framework of the Community's Co-operation Program in the Mediterranean. It is administered by the Italian Association for Women in Development, AIDOS.

IWSAW has recently completed the first phase in the project which is to compile a bibliography on Women's Rights in Lebanon. The progress of this project will be reported consecutively in IWSAW News in *Al-Raida*.

Bibliography of Lebanese Women Writers and Poets in Lebanon

IWSAW is in the process of concluding its long awaited, and first of its kind work : A Bibliography of Lebanese Women Writers and Poets in Lebanon.

In addition to entries for more than one hundred and ten women, the bibliography contains three studies on women's literature in Lebanon : the Short Story, by Dr. Samira Aghacy; the Poetry by Sabah Zwein, and the Novel by Rashid al-Da'if.

The entry for each author provides a profile of the author's life, education, work, activities, and a bibliographic list of her works.

It is worth noting here, that the collection of information on these authors is a major achievement considering the present condition of the postal system in Lebanon, the inefficiency of telephone directory services, the lack of printed reference materials covering the subject ,and the movement of people in and out of Lebanon over the long years of war.

Female Labor Force in Lebanon

A study on "Female Labor Force in Lebanon" was conducted by IWSAW, with funding from the Agency for International Development (AID). It was executed by a working team provided by a Lebanese consulting firm (Consultation and Research Institute).

The goal of the study "is to provide the necessary database for formulating effective policies, plans for action, and specific projects, in order to establish feasible priorities for strategies targeted to women workers in Lebanon that are linked to the types of demand in the labor market.

Information in the study included:

- Attributes of working women (education, skills, training, experience, social status)
- The size of the Lebanese female labor force.

- Conditions of women at work.
- Problems that working women face.
- Job market demands for female labor.

The sample of working women was extracted from the base sample used by the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNFPA in conducting the "Population and Household Sample Survey".

The study is about 1000 pages long divided into two main parts: a comprehensive report, and statistical annexes. The report discusses the history and evolution of the female labor force in Lebanon, provides a description of the contemporary situation, and predicts future possibilities for female labor. Finally it concludes with general recommendations that can be used to improve the female labor supply to meet the demands of the labor market in Lebanon.

The study is under publication and will be available for those interested shortly.

Forthcoming Publications by IWSAW

- Working Women in Lebanon
- Lebanese Women Writers and Poets
- Women, Media and Sustainable Development
- Women in the Literature of Tayib al-Saleh
- Salwa Nassar, the First Lebanese Woman Physicist
- Sex and Marriage in the works of Hanan al-Shaykh



IWSAW Staff