

FEMALE LABOR FORCE IN LEBANON

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) has completed a study entitled **Female Labor Force in Lebanon**. The study was funded by the Agency for International Development (AID) and was executed by a working team brought together through the assistance of the Consultation and Research Institute, a Lebanese consulting and research firm. The study provides the necessary database for formulating effective policies, plans for action, and specific projects targeted towards improving the status of working women in Lebanon. It also offers information on the attributes of working women (education, skills, training, experience, social status, etc.), the size of the Lebanese female labor force, the conditions of working women, the problems they face as well as the job market demand for female labor. The study has been translated into Arabic.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LEBANESE WOMEN WRITERS AND POETS IN LEBANON

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) has concluded its long awaited bibliography of Lebanese women writers and poets. The study consists of entries for more than one hundred and ten women. The entry for each author provides a profile of the author's life, education, work, activities, and a bibliographic list of her works. The monograph also contains three studies on women's literature in Lebanon: Samira Aghacy on the short story, Sabah Zwein on poetry and Rachid al-Daif on the novel.

WOMEN - MEDIA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) has completed a study on Lebanese women and the media conducted by Ms. Irene Lorfing. The research project assesses the role of the Lebanese media in sustainable development, the factors that affect decision-making processes within the Lebanese media institutions, the role and status of female media professionals, and the quality of education university students are getting in preparation for this task.

SALWA NASSAR KAMA 'ARAFUHA

A biography of Salwa Nassar, the first Lebanese woman physicist, has just been published. The book

is written by her colleague and friend Najla Akrawi who traces the different stages in Nassar's life: her student years at the Junior College later known as Beirut College for Women (BCW), her experience in the United States of America where she worked with prominent physicists, her appointment as president of BCW, as well as her illness and death.

THE IMAGE OF WOMAN IN THE WORKS OF AL-TAYIB SALEH

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World has published a monograph on women in the literature of Tayib Saleh. The author, Saleh Ibrahim, traces the presentation of women in the novels and short stories of Tayib Saleh. Women, in Saleh's work, are perceived as sexual objects dominated and abused by men. Women are also seen as victims of traditions and the male's own interpretation of tradition and the religious text. According to Ibrahim women in the works of Tayib Saleh, are either traditional, fluctuating between customs, traditions and a desire for freedom, or "new women" who have managed to reject and react against the limitations and the marginal position assigned to them.

SEX AND MARRIAGE IN THE NOVELS OF HANAN AL-SHAYKH

A monograph, by Saleh Ibrahim, on the works of the Lebanese writer and novelist Hanan al-Shaykh has just been published by the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World. Ibrahim asserts that in the works of Hanan al-Shaykh sex is not solely restricted to mechanical contact, but takes on a wider dimension to incorporate issues related to belongingness, internal psychological tensions and other problems that ensue from sexual repressions and frustrations.

NEW APPOINTMENT

A new director, Mrs Mona Khalaf, has been appointed to the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW). Mrs Khalaf is an Assistant Professor of Economics at LAU's Business School. She is a member of the Lebanese National Commission for Women and of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). She also served as a research associate at IWSAW between 1993 and 1995.