

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

The Belize Government has set up a National Women's Commission to assist in current efforts to **improve** the situation of Belizean women.

The 13-member Commission will serve as the executive organ of the country's Women's Bureau. It is responsible for recommending to Government policy measures affecting women. It also monitors the work of the Bureau and recommends how goals can be reached.

Chairperson of the Commission is Deputy Minister of Health, Housing and Cooperatives, Mrs. Jane Usher.

The terms of reference of both the Bureau and the Commission have been re-drafted since the latter's formation. These now include: training of potential female leaders in areas such as career planning, project promotion and management skills; development and implementation of specific projects planned by women to directly benefit women; training of women in family life education, nutrition and home economics; creation of an awareness and understanding - among leaders in government and the private sector - of women's situation; and, serving as a national advocate for women.

The New Belize, Vol. XIII No: 2,
February 1983

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES

In France, the government's women's rights programme is making headway, especially in family planning.

The programme emphasizes that women must have a choice about how to control their fertility, if they are to have equal rights.

Over US\$1 million of the programme's budget has been spent so far on a family planning drive which is thought to have reached 14 million women.

The drive was launched late in 1981 (after President Mitterand's socialist government came to power) and has been gathering strength ever since. Its message, "Today, every woman must be able to choose," has been promoted in brochures, posters, stickers, exhibitions, and press and television advertisements.

Information about family planning is now available in 279 information centres; the Ministry of Health network has set up 88 centres for family planning services and abortion; and 24 other ministries are helping to provide education and information, along with the French family planning association.

Family planning workers say they are pleased the campaign has been successful in reaching working women and in popularizing the subject in a Catholic country.

People, Vol. 10 No: 2, 1983.

NEW PUBLICATION ON WOMEN AND EDUCATION

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) of the UWI (Cave Hill Campus) has published a volume on the education of Caribbean women, with special reference to Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

In Women and Education the contributors, Joyce Cole and Patricia Mohammed, examine the historical process and find a positive mutual relationship between women's education and their labour force participation.

In her Introduction, UWI lecturer, Kathleen Drayton, observes, "These papers improve our knowledge of the historical process which imposed on the British West Indies an education system that discriminated against women while creating and reinforcing an image of women's role which differed from social reality. They show that it was not the world of work, but prestigious positions and the 'citadels of power' that their education made inaccessible to women."

The work is available from the ISER at Bds\$18.00 or US\$12.00.

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FORMULA FOR OVERCOMING STEREOTYPING

A curriculum programme - designed to overcome the negative effects of sex-bias and stereotyping on the attitudes, interests and aspirations of girls toward mathematics and math-related careers - is now available from the Women's Educational Equity Act Publishing Center in the U.S.

The programme, known as MATHCO, enables teachers to teach math skills, demonstrate the interrelationships between math and other subjects, and expose students to a wide variety of math-related careers. The informational and skill-building activities are as valuable for boys as they are for girls.

The programme, which was developed for middle school students, contains materials for math, language/fine arts, science, and social science classes; detailed inservice teacher training manuals; filmstrips; and wall-charts. Each module includes a teacher guidebook, lesson plans, student activity sheets, and the text of a corresponding film-strip.

The complete set, except student activity sheets, costs US\$71.50 and may be ordered from: Education Development Center, Inc., 55 Chapel Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02160, U.S.A.

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EDUCATING WOMEN BY RADIO

In Nepal, an educational project is using radio broadcasts to encourage girls to attend school more regularly and to stay in school beyond the third grade.

The Radio Education Teacher Training Project (RETT) is aimed at upgrading the skills of untrained primary school teachers, but is generally presenting strong and positive female role models to women throughout Nepal.

RETT was not designed specifically to improve the status of Nepal women, but a review of data on literacy rates and school enrollment in Nepal clearly indicates that improving women's participation in formal and non-formal educational activities should be a part of the overall objectives of any educational project there.

Increasing the participation of women at all levels of education has therefore been integrated into RETT's goals.

Development Communication Report

No: 41, March 1983.

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WOMEN HELPING THEMSELVES

In Bolivia, the Association of Peasant Women (ASOMCA) is involved in a project to help women help themselves.

A technical support team has been formed to give the women practical on-the-spot tuition, assist them in practising their new skills, and help them organize into self-help groups capable of commercializing their products and goods.

Radio also plays an important part in the project; programmes involving the public are broadcast from Monday to Saturday.

The programmes - which include interviews, magazine items, theatre, and so on - deal with such subjects as agricultural and cattle-raising techniques, and traditional crafts. Courses in literacy, adult education, health and nutrition are also planned.

