

WOMAN

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Struggle

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MORE JAPANESE WOMEN WORKING - BUT IN LOW STATUS JOBS.....

Japanese women are playing a larger role in their country's labour force these days, but are facing worse treatment than ever.

So says the Los Angeles Times which reports that Japan's female work force grew by 2.9 per cent in 1983 alone and now makes up 39 per cent of the total labour force.

But Japanese women's growing numbers in the job force haven't translated into a growth in clout. The Times notes that more than 60 per cent of the women workers in Japan have only part-time status, even when they put in the same number of hours and handle the same tasks as workers listed full-time.

In addition, reports the Times, women fill only 5.7 per cent of managerial posts overall, and a dismal one-half of one per cent of government management jobs in Japan.

New Directions for Women, Vol. 13 No. 4
July/August 1984

.....AND, SRI LANKAN WOMEN WORKERS FACE DISCRIMINATION

Sri Lanka, which produced the world's first woman Prime Minister over 20 years ago, has only six per cent women in the higher rungs of professionals, administrators and managers. There is still no woman secretary to a ministry.

Women make up 27 per cent of the country's work force of six million, but the largest numbers of women are found in manual and semi-skilled jobs. In unskilled and semi-skilled grades they get less pay for work of equal value.

In other grades, wages are equal, but in the higher echelons of the public service old prejudices and stereotyping are strong.

WIN NEWS, Vol. 10 No. 2 Spring 1984

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN SUCCESSFUL

An extensive and forceful campaign protesting against crimes against women in Pakistan, has seen results.

Pakistan's President, Zia-ul-Huq, has decreed that anyone who assaults or uses criminal force against a woman to strip her naked and, in that condition, exposes her to the public, will be sentenced to life imprisonment or even death.

The introduction of this measure follows on the campaign initiated by the Women's Action Forum in Lahore and Karachi. The Forum set up an Action Committee of various women's groups which protested against the rising rate and increasingly violent nature of crimes against women.

Outwrite Women's Newspaper, No. 28 August '84

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN URGED FOR INDIA

The status of Indian women appears to have gone down so steeply in recent years that the country's main opposition group, Bharatiya Janata Party, has demanded the establishment of a permanent and separate commission for women.

In a memorandum to the President of India, the party said the commission should concern itself with all problems of Indian women and constantly monitor progress in schemes geared to their welfare and upliftment.

The memorandum cited the rise in crimes against women as proof of the deterioration in women's status. It claimed that the government had failed to protect women, and pointed to the bride-burning phenomenon of which 1,979 cases were reported between March 1980 and November 1982.

Meanwhile, mothers of dowry death victims have been on a hunger strike. They have also met with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and demanded that the authorities launch a fresh probe into the deaths.

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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC WORK

A bill has been tabled in Italy's Parliament that gives recognition to the social value of domestic work.

The group of Christian Democrats who tabled the bill pointed out that although domestic chores are repetitious and not very rewarding, it should be borne in mind that such work by women furthers the well-being, quality of life and harmonious development of their families and society as a whole.

Section four of the bill suggests a fund in each region of Italy to "encourage the setting up and running of housewives' co-operatives" which might be for the purpose of production or social solidarity co-operative groups.

Work in the home accounts for about a third of Italy's gross national product.

Women of Europe, Jan./March 1984 No. 34

HOUSEWIVES' UNION

The German Housewives' Union, a public agency founded in 1979 to defend and promote the interests of the family, is aiming at official recognition for the jobs of housewife and househusband.

The union is working for a better pension system for women and men in the home, an allowance for bringing up children, a national accident insurance scheme, more adequate health insurance, nation-wide support for those wishing to return to the working world and part-time working.

Women of Europe, Jan./March 1984 No. 34
