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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED  
STATUS OF WOMEN REPORTS FUNDED BY A.I.D.

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micro-studies as cross checks against macro-data. They break new ground in looking at female-headed households, migration, and own account employment as well as in linking fertility and employment issues.

Under Meena Acharya's direction, the Nepal study critiques the under-counting of female economic activity and offers a time-allocation methodology to track and categorize female activities which are ignored by the census. A parallel approach, amenable to "rapid survey" techniques, is developed by ICRW for Nicaragua, and Melinda Smale's work in Mauritania develops a household-level survey methodology. In all cases, it is not only economic activity but women's role in decision-making that is a focus of study.

A comparison of the quality of these studies indicates that the ability to go back and forth between micro- and macro- data adds to the quality of the analysis, not only because of the obvious gaps in census data, but also because the village surveys correct the tendency to overgeneralize from macro data. Case studies and small scale surveys provide depth and texture, and add needed regional and ethnic adjustments to policy-oriented analysis.

On the qualitative side, there are two observations to be made. An important theme that is picked up by too few of the studies is the question of what the "status" of women really means. Cynthia Myntti argues that the plea to "raise the status of women . . . is a rather confusing dictum." Economic productivity plus legal and customary rights and restrictions can be combined to give women a "rating," but

age, good manners in public, an honorable reputation, descent from Muhammad . . . plus spending power and education all figure into the status of an individual. Foreign aid with any number of development projects will never be able to address itself to the fundamental issues at stake in the all-inclusive term 'status.'

Jacqueline Smucker makes explicit the concerns of some of the consultants

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on these projects when she argues that "women in development" stems from an "American bias" which puts differences in sex roles under negative scrutiny. Similarly the Thai survey team writes that "Women's liberation is a foreign concept to all rural Thai women and most urban women." It must be emphasized that none of these studies rejects the view that women should have more access to resources, or that modernization has a negative impact on women; in fact, both studies made a strong case for projects geared to women's needs and favor the collection of sex-disaggregated data. What is questioned is the degree to which "women in development" sees women's needs as separate from family needs and survival strategies. As Myntti concluded for Yemeni women, "A project that does not take into account the women's roles vis a vis their male relatives will not work." (p. 47)

Another issue is the linkage between "status" and "work." In the case of Paraguay, Judith Laird notes that as family incomes increase, women work less in the fields, a phenomenon that is generally true of rural women. Melinda Smale also discusses this issue:

Work is generally considered by us to be desirable in and of itself, and also because it leads directly to the accumulation of money. Wealth in money is one basis of social status. Work, by association, provides status; work is a social goal. By contrast, some forms of labor, to a Bidan woman, are demeaning, and the fact that these forms of work are ignoble is more critical to her than the desire to be an independent producer.

Again, this is not to argue that income generating and increased production are not the most high priority goals, but to point out that work and status are not fully coterminous. Thus a successful project, particularly a successful rural project, may actually lower the number of women in the labor force. As Acharya suggests in her study of Nepal, a better definition of household production would help us here; from the standpoint of rural projects,

attention to income generating activities that are consistent with other components of social status will clearly be more accepted. It is also clear that projects which do aid female household heads will reach the "poorest of the poor," whether rural or urban.

This discussion of work illustrates, in briefest form, how issues of "theory" (definitions of work and status) and "practice" (designing and evaluating the success of projects) overlap. It is appropriate at this point to ask how useful status of women reports are from the practitioner standpoint: to what extent do status of women reports assist in the design and implementation of programs and projects?

On the one hand, there are clear positive effects. In general these studies provide a benchmark measurement of discrepancies between men and women in terms of access to key resources: education, income, health, mobility, credit, political voice. They also give indications of ethnic and rural/urban differences, some insight into social organization and status, and in some cases clear data on women's time constraints and on time spent in low productivity tasks. This in turn suggests specific kinds of technologies which could make a major difference and underlines the importance of designing projects which are sensitive to women's severe time constraints.

The best studies also use a methodology that can identify felt needs. For example, the Upper Volta report suggests a process by which priorities can be developed and through which feedback on existing efforts can be encouraged. Similarly, the Thai project aims toward community identification of needs. A methodology which combines rapid time-allocation survey techniques with community identification of needs (a combination of the Mauritania or

Nicaragua and Thai studies) would meet both of these key objectives. The legal and attitudinal aspects of women's status seem the most difficult goal from the standpoint of A.I.D.'s strengths, but even there knowledge of the specifics and supportive work with counterparts can make a difference. Conversely, cynicism about women in development efforts, misunderstandings about the status and role of women in cultures very different from that of the United States, and lack of the basic data these kinds of reports provide can undermine the clearest policy and derail the best designed project.

Finally, there is an important sense in which these reports are not giving us "new" news, and that is in terms of their recommendations. Each one of them illustrates the degree to which the modernization process undermines women's traditional status, while simultaneously excluding most women from access to the new sources of income and even survival: technology, education, credit and jobs. All of these reports agree that projects should serve these ends and that a focus on the specific problems of women's access to resources is necessary to success. In this sense a major national level "status of women" report, although desirable, is not a necessary prerequisite for planning or designing projects that integrate women. The recommendations are clear; the problem is to identify the specific obstacles and opportunities at the project level and to have individuals with the appropriate expertise and commitment on the project design and implementation teams.

## 1. ASIA

Susan Fuller Alamgir

PROFILE OF BANGLADESHI WOMEN: SELECTED ASPECTS OF WOMEN'S ROLES  
AND STATUS IN BANGLADESH

(Dacca: June, 1977) 88 pages plus appendices and bibliography (8 pp.)

A preface to the report by Sallie Huber, the women's program advisor to USAID/Bangladesh, provides useful information, absent from most of the studies done here, on why the report was done and how the consultant was chosen. The body of the study is divided into sections on women's legal and social status and rural women. The first section outlines the extent to which women are dependent on a patrilineal and patrilocal kinship system which affects even the non-Muslim 15% of the population. Although women can inherit property, they customarily give up their legal rights to brothers for rights within the brothers' households; labor force participation of women over 10 years old is only 4% (although this grossly underestimates women's productive labor, of course) and female literacy is just over 12%. Men outnumber women according to the 1974 census by 2.7 million in a total population of 71.4 million. The first section focuses heavily on the legal status of women under Muslim, Christian, and Hindu law; the second section answers twenty specific questions about the status of rural women, including women's knowledge of farm technology, roles in household and farm decision-making, access to credit and training, and control over earnings. There are seven statistical tables at the end including economic activities of urban women, average number of children born by age and educational level, agricultural participation rates by age and sex, and participation in rice processing by age and sex.

Nantanee Jayasut and survey team

STATUS OF THAI WOMEN IN TWO RURAL AREAS: A SURVEY REPORT  
(Bangkok: September, 1977) 83 pages plus appendices and  
bibliography (2 pages)

This report was done under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Thailand using a team of seven professors from the Faculty of Social Administration of Thammasat University and an Overseas Education Fund project consultant in response to the Asia Bureau initiative to generate data relevant to planning development programs for rural women. A literature review shows that female labor force participation is the highest in Asia: women constitute 45% of the labor force. They have had "equal status" in law since 1976, and have equal representation in higher education, though not in primary and secondary schools. A survey was carried out of 994 male heads of households and 1272 women from 14-49 years of age in 20 villages, looking at availability of resources (health centers, schools, etc.), literacy (males 87%; females 72%), migration (97% have lived in village since birth), agricultural jobs and household responsibilities, school enrollments, attitudes toward and use of birth control, female participation in family decision-making, and male and female attitudes about women's roles and participation. A separate chapter is devoted to rural women's assessment of their own needs to determine strongest demands for training programs and identify the "most important community need." Specific recommendations are offered to the Thai government and donors, based on key village concerns: water, roads, and credit. Further studies are suggested on the way "private companies" contract farm production and on use of credit. The statistical appendix includes additional data on economic activities of men and women by sector and in the professions and some additional data on fertility and family size. Response data from the questionnaire and village sampling maps are also included.

Rojas-Aleta, Isabel, Teresita L. Silva, and Christine P. Eleazar

A PROFILE OF FILIPINO WOMEN: THEIR STATUS AND ROLE  
(Hardback book published in Manila, October, 1977) 330 pages  
plus bibliography (15 pages)

This exhaustive look at the status of Filipino women begins with a historical survey, examines sex role socialization, and reviews the existing data on health and fertility status, marriage, family size, household authority patterns and decision making, educational and economic status, obstacles and tensions in female labor force participation and legal status. It has separate chapters on women in rural areas and women in cultural minority groups. After presenting regional data profiles for ten regions of the Philippines, the study then turns to recommendations and implications for action programs, primarily for rural women, in appropriate technology, functional education and training, agricultural skills training and integrated rural development. Although strong in areas such as decision-making in the urban family and conflicts between work and domestic responsibilities, the chapter on rural women is weak and there is little concern for possible negative impact of development efforts, although studies are cited which show that such programs are often skewed toward men. Rural women are shown to be active in family economic decision-making, and thus as appropriate beneficiaries of rural agricultural project aid. There is a list of women's organizations and 14 pages of statistical appendices.

Ok Yul Kim and Kyungsook Lee

A STUDY ON THE STATUS OF KOREAN WOMEN IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
(Research Center for Asian Women, Sookmyung Women's University,  
1977) 77 pages plus footnotes and bibliography (8 pages)

The study begins by reviewing existing literature on the status of women in Korea looking carefully at the theoretical question of what "status" means in the Western (largely U.S.) sociological literature. The core of the study is a survey of 866 women in Seoul and six rural areas to examine the effects of women entering the labor force on other roles and specifically the ways in which women are involved in "domestic" and "public" decision-making, and how that involvement correlates with urban/rural residence, education, marital longevity, etc. The analysis is geared to measuring attitudinal change in a society that has been experiencing rapid modernization; it does not focus on rural women, agricultural development issues or A.I.D. projects. It does examine women's role in decision-making in depth. The conclusions argue that access to education and training is key for women and for the development process and that education must be matched by job opportunities for women. This need is underlined by the fact that 37% of women over 14 are in the labor force, and women are nearly 40% of the economically active population. This survey represents a unique case among the studies reviewed here of feminist attitudinal research applied to a "developing" country; it would be of particular interest to scholars interested in comparative studies of feminist issues. A separate report provides brief answers to the USAID questionnaire on the status of women in Asian countries (17 pages).

Pamela A. Hunter

WOMEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN  
(July, 1978) 121 pages plus bibliography (4 pages)

This report is divided into three sections: a statistical profile of Afghan women, individual case studies of urban, rural, and nomadic women, and a review of programs relating to Afghan women, with recommendations for future projects. Given that the first census was about to be taken at the time of this report, it is surprisingly rich in data. Earlier surveys show a very young population, a very low life expectancy (34.6 years), and a rural sex ratio of 115.6, apparently due both to underreporting and higher female mortality. Women marry young and marry men who are older; male children are preferred. 76.9% of males and 95.8% of females have no formal education. Hunter reviews data on health facilities and family planning, migration, educational attainment and enrollment (51.2% of boys and 8.6% of girls enrolled in primary school), including female university enrollment by field. She also provides data on labor force participation, with emphasis on the role of unpaid family labor in rural and urban areas, the composition of the labor force by sex and industry, and female involvement in handicrafts production. In the four case studies Hunter explores family structures, female socialization and cultural expectations. In Kabul she classifies female economic activities by whether they occur in the "public" or "private" spheres and provides data on salaries and in kind payments, and looks at female mobility patterns. "Typical daily activity" charts contrast time allocations of provincial urban, rural, and nomadic women and show among other things the time spent in leisure and interaction among females. The final section details government and donor efforts to reach women, including women's organizations, and lists the typical problems encountered by such programs as well as recommendations for future training programs.

Pauline Milone

A PRELIMINARY STUDY IN THREE COUNTRIES: INDONESIA REPORT  
(Washington, D.C.: September, 1978) 215 pages plus appendices  
and annotated bibliography (49 pages)

This is a detailed and analytically first rate review of the social, legal, economic, and demographic data on women in Indonesia, a "data-rich" country in terms of both micro and macro data sets on women and male/female comparisons. Indonesia is a country of breathtaking variety: there are 300 ethnic groups, 992 inhabited islands, 250 languages and dialects, and 19 systems of customary law. Although nearly 90% Muslim, Indonesia's women are not secluded; young marriage is common and divorce rates are high. The 1974 Marriage Law attempts to equalize the conditions of marriage, class and educational levels determine access to legal rights. 61% of women and 72% of men are literate; female enrollments are increasing more rapidly than male. There is a tradition of female cooperation and of small scale credit associations; women are involved in a parallel hierarchy of political leadership as wives of male officials. 32% of women are "economically active," many of these in the informal sector. 16% of households are female headed. Women are active traders and entrepreneurs.

Although the population is 83% rural, people are increasingly being driven off the land and introduction of new techniques in farming have had a differential impact not only by class but by sex (e.g., the introduction of rice hullers which drastically reduced wage labor for poor women). In addition to a review of existing data, there is a chapter on current field investigations and a critical look at existing methodologies, including a sample household survey model. A separate 21 page executive summary including research recommendations is attached.

Swarne Jayaweera and others

STATUS OF WOMEN: SRI LANKA  
(University of Colombo, 1979) 673 pages

This data-rich, analytical study of women in Sri Lanka consists of eight chapters written by various faculty members of the University of Colombo. It looks at the three major population subgroups: Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim, and is based on original field investigations in three villages and one municipal ward of Colombo as well as on existing literature.

The first chapter on socio-cultural factors (Malsiri Dias) argues that "if women can gain command of the public domain they are thereby assured of status in the private domain," and reviews sex-role socialization and differential obligations of husbands and wives. There are chapters on demography (Chandra Jayasuriya), law (Nirmala Chandrahasan), creative arts and media (Hema Goonatilake), education (Swarna Jayaweera), the economy (Swarna Jayaweera), political participation and decision-making (Wimala de Silva), and health and nutrition (Priyani Soysa).

The conclusions of the report emphasize legal issues (bringing personal law in line with general law in marriage, divorce and property) and the need for an equal remuneration and a review of protective labor legislation); argue that women's organizations, consciousness-raising and efforts to reduce traditional attitudes toward women be encouraged and that the mass media be monitored for sex stereotyping and women be integrated into broadcast, journalist and management jobs. Compulsory education for all boys and girls under 15 should be introduced and enforced, textbooks revised, and vocational training available to girls should be broadened, and men should be taught home economics.

Suggestions for labor legislation emphasize equal pay and removal of

barriers to equal access to employment and that labor legislation be extended to home industry and part time employment; further, credit access for women should be improved and assistance provided to form cooperatives. Flexible time, maternity leaves and child care should be made available. It was suggested that further studies of decision-making be done to facilitate women's participation and that the Women's Bureau be empowered to investigate cases of discrimination. Extensive tables and bibliography are included in each chapter.

Meena Acharya, Lynn Bennett, Bina Pradhan, and Indira Shrestha

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN NEPAL, Volume I

This first volume of a larger study on the status of women in Nepal, which will eventually include the results of an extensive time-allocation survey in seven communities, is a collection and analysis of available secondary data. The four monographs (of five) now available in Volume I are:

1. "Statistical Profile of Nepalese Women: A Critical Review," Meena Acharya (Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University Press, May 1979), 98 pages plus bibliography (4 pages). Demographic, social (marriage, education), political, and economic aspects of women's status are reviewed. Acharya offers an extensive critique of census data, concluding that women's activities are left out of labor force statistics and arguing that women's role in reproduction of the labor force should also be counted as an economic activity. Data on economic, political and life patterns and choices of Nepalese women (only 1.5% of whom are literate) is woefully inadequate. Programs to increase productivity are thus operating in a vacuum, particularly in terms of household production. 55 tables.

2. Lynn Bennett, "Tradition and Change in the Legal Status of Nepalese Women" (Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University Press, January, 1979), 102 pages plus bibliography (2 pages). Reviews women's status in the National Code largely with regard to property, but also including the Hindu ideal of female behavior, marriage, divorce, child custody, abortion, polygamy, and marriage payments. The study concludes that the persistence of traditional law is at odds with the government's "top down" attempts to legislate national standards for women's rights.

3. Bina Pradhan, "Institutions Concerning Women in Nepal," (Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University Press, May, 1979), 120 pages plus appendix and references (5 pages). Pradhan reviews the Nepal Women's Organization, the Women's Affairs Training and Extension Center, Equal Access of Women to Education, Mothers' Club, Women's Services Coordination Committee, the Socio-Cultural Centre for Women, and the Business and Professional Women's Club in terms of history, leadership, objectives and sources of support, concluding that these organizations have too much "duplication and superficiality" in their ongoing programs for women, and that local women's group leadership is lacking. Skill training is insufficient if jobs are not available, and although over 98% of the female population engages in agricultural activities, there are no agricultural programs except for kitchen gardening.

4. Indira Shrestha, "Annotated Bibliography on Women in Nepal," (Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University Press, May, 1979), 69 pages. Includes entries under "Economy," "Education," "Anthropological Studies," "Law," and "Health and Population." Noting that the "most interesting and useful studies are those based on concrete ethnographic data," Shrestha concludes that "the stereotyped concepts of what is 'male' and what is 'female' often make no sense in terms of observed behavior of the respective participation of men and women in the local economy." (p. 4)

## II. AFRICA

D. R. Reynolds

AN APPRAISAL OF RURAL WOMEN IN TANZANIA  
(Regional Economic Development Services Office, 1975)  
43 pages plus bibliography (3 pages)

The report is concerned with "the situation of women in Tanzania and its implications for agricultural development planning," and covers (1) a critique of current views on the role of women in agriculture; (2) a review of the roles of women in East Africa, including the colonial experience and the Ujamaa village program; and (3) women's access to education, and to the legal system, employment opportunities, credit and extension.

In 1967, the Arusha Declaration made land the property of the state and established Ujamaa villages as multi-purpose cooperatives," a system in which women are to have access to land as workers and members of the cooperative; land can not be sold or rented by men leaving women landless. However, what little information is available indicates that, particularly where the system is only partially implemented, women "still gain use rights by virtue of their ties with husband or other kin." Although women's exposure to formal education has greatly increased in the 1960's, by 1971 65% of women ages 15-19 had no formal education as compared to 38% of the men in that age group.

The agricultural extension service has trouble both reaching women farmers and recruiting women; this training is based on the U.S. model which provides home economics training to farmers' wives: "The primary assumption is that men are the farmers, and if they are not, they should be." Women are active traders -- they retain the income and food surpluses from "food crops" (as opposed to cash crops), and thus a degree of financial autonomy. The report concludes that the key barrier to women's progress is attitudinal -- on the part of the govern-

ment, donor agencies, and women themselves, which has had a negative impact on women's effective access to resources, even when policy is equity-oriented.

Jeanne North, Marian Fuchs-Carsch, Judy Bryson, and Sharna Blumenfeld

WOMEN IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA: STUDY AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY  
(Development Assistance Program, FY 1976-FY 1980, Volume IV,  
USAID/Ghana: April, 1975) 136 pages plus annotated bibliography  
(69 pages)

The introduction notes that women are childbearers, child-rearers, and homemakers, but that they are also expected to provide for personal and family needs from their own incomes, yet "society does not put a corresponding value on the economic sphere from which its expectations are high." The introduction outlines the wide variations of the status of women in Ghana and conflicts in the scholarly literature about the degree of female financial and decision-making independence. There are sections on women as small scale farmers, the role of women in health, population and nutrition, women in education and voluntary women's organizations (each a separate program category).

There is also a separate chapter on women as traders which notes that 85% of traders in the Accra market are women, but that the majority make less than wage earners. The chapters on small scale farming and trade include specific policy recommendations. The section on women's organizations views these as a response to urbanization and disruption of traditional ties; in addition to attending sick and bereaved members and helping with childbirth, the associations collect money from members which is given to each member in rotation in a system known as "susu." Church organizations and those affiliated with international women's organizations are prominent and active, but their potential for development projects is not probed.

Dorene Reynoles (International Center for Research on Women)

A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON DATA ON WOMEN IN THREE COUNTRIES: KENYA REPORT (Washington, D.C.: 1978) 167 pages plus appendices (16 statistical tables), annotated bibliography (65 pages), and Executive Summary (21 pages)

One of three studies by ICRW (the other two were Indonesia and Nicaragua) to draw together data on women, the Kenya study follows the ICRW format of placing women in a demographic context (90% rural, but high urban growth rate and high fertility), looking at migration, urban and rural sex ratios, and data on female-headed households. Marriage laws and customs are reviewed and marriage "strategies" for men and women outlined. It is noted that "there is no explicit assurance of equality before the law regardless of marital status." Women obtain rights to land through their relationship to a particular man; colonial land policies equated power to allocate land with ownership to the detriment of women's use rights. There is no community property, and polygamy complicates marital property disputes.

In 1969, 88% of all women and 77% of all men were illiterate; women are 18% of the university enrollment, one fourth of secondary school enrollment, and 46% of primary enrollment, and lower levels of education exclude women from vocational and technical training open to men. 50% of all technical training available to women is for "home improvement," and agricultural extension does not reach women effectively. Women's organizations have been active, particularly in rural areas. Women are found at all levels of business activity, but have less access to credit. A research design to obtain micro-level data on the economic and social dynamics of households was developed by the researcher for use on West Pokot, an area considered a priority programming target for future A.I.D. projects.

REDSO/West and the Société Africaine d' Etudes et de Développement

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UPPER VOLTA: WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE  
(Ouagadougou, April, 1978) 32 pages plus appendix

This brief study of the status, attitudes, and felt needs of Voltaic women is based on interviews with 26 women active in leadership or professional roles. It begins with the contrast between Western and African approaches to the women's issues:

Throughout the world the topic of women's status and roles has been the subject of innumerable seminars, articles and studies . . . Numerous theories compete, searching for a new philosophy which would recognize women as rational and responsible individuals. In Africa this topic has impassioned women from a different perspective . . . Instead of searching for a new freedom from family demands, African women are struggling to retain their former independence and status within the family structure and to continue their important economic and social roles within the family and the community. This independence has already been weakened by western ideas which define women's role as limited to the care of the household, and by modernization, which is bringing advantages to men but not to women. (p. 1)

The study then goes on to look at the "Social Sector" (education, health, law, and social services) and then to the "evolving social situation," i.e., the impact of change on these areas. The second section looks at the "Economic Sector," describing the traditional forms of production, and the effects of modernization and of the drought. In "Manufacture, Commerce and Labor," the report makes the case for reducing the time spent in traditional tasks, e.g., processing millet flour, but warns of the negative consequences if women lose control of the production process. The report concludes that "women want cooperative or community programs aimed first at the village level," and suggests that funding should be made available for various projects developed by the women interviewed.

Judy C. Bryson

WOMEN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CAMEROON  
(USAID/Yaounde, January, 1979) 94 pages plus annotated  
bibliography (53 pages) and index

This report is based on "written sources and on perspectives of knowledgeable individuals," not on field research, a serious limitation according to the author as few accounts were written by Cameroonian women. The purpose of the report was to "provide background information to assist in efforts to enhance the contribution of women to national development and to maximize their share in the benefits." It begins with a discussion of the impact of modernization on traditional systems in the three main geographical areas of Cameroon, and the role of women in the cities. Separate sections are devoted to women in agriculture and nutrition, motherhood and child care, education and women in the modern sector. Cameroonians are polygamous although the majority of both men and women oppose polygamy. Women's role in agriculture results from their childbearing roles. Women increasingly have access to education -- 15% of school attendants were female in the 1940's and 30% at independence; now women are "about 50%" of the total. At the secondary level female enrollments are increasing faster than male.

As modernization occurs,

the food marketing system is the principal means by which women have been brought into the modern sector. Due to the opportunities and demands provided by colonial administrations, men moved into a whole new spectrum of modern occupations from cash crop farming to industrial and clerical work. Women to a large extent were left to the traditional sector, not only through a lack of opportunities provided to them, but also because they had to continue to work the land if their husbands were to retain title to it. (p. 86)

Women's participation in a complex network of savings associations is reviewed, as well as the limited data available on women in cooperative associations.

This report is rich in detail and sensitive to issues of comparative "status," but lacks policy conclusions or project recommendations.

Barbara Abeille

A STUDY OF FEMALE LIFE IN MAURITANIA  
(Nouakchott: July, 1979) 51 pages plus questionnaire and  
references

John Grayzel introduces this study by reviewing the tribal and ethnic complexity of Mauritania, which is divided into Hassaniya speakers (the Bidan and the Haratin), the Toucouleur (agricultural populations along the Senegal River), the Peul and the Wolof (the largest single ethnic groups), and the Barbara and Sarakolle. Abeille carried out in depth interviews with 15 informants and group discussions which focused on the Bidans, many of whom recently migrated to the newly created capital of Nouakchott, a city created when independence occurred in 1960.

In the past ten years, the country has gone from being 2/3 nomadic to being 2/3 sedentary; thus these populations are experiencing rapid social change. Children in Bidan culture work very little and education is informal, with the mother and the Koranic tutor the primary teachers. Parents choose the daughter's husband and girls are force-fed to make them attractive. The Bidan are polygamous; bride prices are high as are divorce rates. Women describe divorce as the "one practice which more than any other continues to oppress women." Bidan mothers show a preference for daughters who will care for them in their old age. Women artisans are freer, control their own money, and can trade in urban markets. Change has increased divorce rates, but has also changed values about women's roles and particularly has given women increased access to education. Women's political and economic participation, encouraged by the former president (Moktar ould Daddah), whose French wife was a political activist, has been curtailed since the coup of 1978.

Melinda S. Smale

WOMEN IN MAURITANIA: THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT AND MIGRATION ON THEIR ECONOMIC STATUS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (English Edition)

(Washington, D.C.: October, 1980) 108 pages plus appendices and bibliography (3 pages)

This detailed report was commissioned by the Women and Development Office with the cooperation of the A.I.D. Mission in Mauritania to go beyond the Abeille report for "a more profound and technical understanding of the socio-economic circumstances women in Mauritania face" and to "serve as a possible field work model for the Women in Development office."

Taking the household (rather than indices of participation in the modern sector) as the primary focus of analysis, Smale looks in Section I at women's activities in household production, including the status derived from that participation, and access to outside resources (capital, land, and village mutual support operations) for the Peulh, Toucouleur, Snoike and Wolof, and Bidan groups. Section II looks at pre- and post-drought pressures on these production systems and the effects of migration and drought on women's economic activities in rural and urban areas.

Among Smale's many observations are the following:

--despite the hypothesis that the recent drought was highly disruptive and that they radically increased male migration, droughts and male migration have been cyclical phenomena for centuries and 'male migration is integral to both pastoral and sedentary production systems'

--women may be working more, but decisions on use of remittances, land transfers and sales are consistently made by men

--the continued use of slave labor in the Bidan/Haratin production system means that women lack marketable skills; Bidan women are often reduced to complete dependence on men and the extended family is a weakening source of support and arbitration of marital disputes

Smale's project-related recommendations note that women have been given assistance in health and nutrition, but not in income earning activities. Since 1978 women have lost their national political representation organization and thus their ability to push for indigenous support. In rural areas, few donor programs address women's role in agriculture. Smale details specific recommendations by region on credit, land use, crop choices, forestry byproducts, livestock, and rural food processing. There are 15 tables and 3 diagrams (including a four page diagrammatic summary of the pre- and post-drought production, marriage, and mobility patterns of women in the ethnic groups under study).

## II. LATIN AMERICA

Coralie Turbitt (International Center for Research on Women)

A PRELIMINARY STUDY IN THREE COUNTRIES· NICARAGUA REPORT  
(Washington, D.C.: September, 1978) Executive Summary (18 pages)

Vivian H. Gillespie with Katherine Carey Clifford (ICRW)

A MODIFIED TIME BUDGET METHODOLOGY FOR GATHERING BASE LINE DATA ON  
THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RURAL WOMEN IN NICARAGUA  
(Washington, D.C.: August, 1977) 108 pages

Vivian H. Gillespie

SUMMARY OF EXISTING INFORMATION ON THE ROLES AND STATUS OF WOMEN  
IN NICARAGUA  
(Washington, D.C.: Revised, 1977) 18 pages plus bibliography  
(7 pages)

One of three ICRW studies commissioned in 1976 to "(1) assess the state of the art; (2) recommend strategies for collection of data . . . where no information available, and (3) to devise methodologies for rapid collection of data," the Nicaragua study was carried out in Region 5 (major cities: Matagalpa and Esteli) with the pre-Sandinista rural development agency, Invierno, and samples 117 women in six villages.

The Summary begins with marital patterns, noting the prevalence of consensual unions and the absence of data on effects of such unions on fertility patterns or family decision-making -- an illustration of the general failure of surveys to move to the intra-household level. The ICRW sample showed 20% of households headed by females, despite lack of census data on the topic, and that 42% of their sample worked for money, although the census shows only 17% do. Male and female literacy and primary education figures are about equal, but female enrollment drops to half that of males after 10 years of schooling. The time budget study shows that women work longer than men and at a larger number of tasks. Women's organizations do not penetrate into the rural areas.

The remainder of the Summary discusses methodology and strategy for this kind of survey -- e.g., "the best introduction into the village was no introduction at all;" "when the purpose of the research was explained, women were cooperative." Specific recommendations for projects include an emphasis on income generation to accompany health, nutrition and home improvement projects, and better access to rural credit for existing activities.

The MODIFIED TIME BUDGET METHODOLOGY discusses measurement techniques in detail and offers some analysis, e.g., the comparison of typical day of women working in home for profit and women working in home not for profit, male and female working patterns, and the sexual division of labor and earnings differentials. The potential for tracing and affecting fertility patterns is discussed throughout, and sample figures are compared to census figures illustrating undercounting of women's economic activities by the census. The SUMMARY OF EXISTING INFORMATION presents the available statistical data on women and analyzes data sources.

Laird, Judith Fincher

RURAL WOMEN IN PARAGUAY: THE SOCIOECONOMIC DIMENSION  
(December, 1979) 169 pages plus bibliography (5 pages)

This is a highly quantitative study of women in Paraguay based on a 1978 survey by FEMRURAL (the Paraguayan Dirección General de Estadística y Censos). Laird looks at four topics: rural families, women headed households, determinants of fertility, and socioeconomic participation patterns, with a detailed look at family types and income levels as they relate to female decision-making. Female participation in rural labor is measured by number of tasks performed by women for principal cash crops, and Laird notes that "there is a direct relation (among farm families) between income and inactivity, i.e., the proportion of women who perform no tasks increases with every increment in income," suggesting that "women do field work out of necessity" and "crop cycle participation is an indication of low income, and probably low status, although there are exceptions," (p. 103) although marriage status (female head, wife or consensual partner) does not play an important role in determining the "economically active." (p. 133) There is no historical analysis and little attempt to link data explicitly to projects or policy choices. Some discussion of labor-force participation methodological issues. 64 tables.

Carlos Luzuriaga C.

SITUACION DE LA MUJER IN EL ECUADOR  
(Quito, Ecuador, April, 1980) 84 pages plus bibliography (12 pages)  
and annexes

This is a review of the literature and data on Ecuadorian women, written in Spanish but citing extensively from sources written in English. The initial section on "culture and anthropology" begins with a look at the roles of women -- as mothers, wives, and daughters -- in Ecuadorian society, then turns to the traditional status of women, the impact of modernization, and evidence of discrimination against women in both urban and rural areas. The section on "economic and social data" covers labor force participation, including some data on male/female income differentials, access to public services (education, health, social security, mass communication media), the impact of migration on the family, and demographic data and family planning. The final section reviews the legal context, with a fairly detailed discussion of the male/female inequalities built into legal marriage (though consensual unions are common, particularly for both the rural and urban lower classes), and looks at female organizational and political participation and the degree to which the government has organized itself to respond to women's needs and issues. The two annexes suggest necessary studies to be done in order to enhance national government planning and to incorporate women into the development process. There is some discussion of methodological issues and the qualitative aspects of this study are exceptionally strong. Most of the quantitative data is inserted in the narrative and there are few tables nor any index to those presented.

Mila Brooks

THE STATUS AND NEEDS OF GUATEMALAN WOMEN: 1980  
(USAID/Guatemala, September, 1980) 244 pages plus  
bibliography (4 pages)

A review of the available data on the role of Guatemalan women in the development process and the existing programs for women offered by both the public and private sectors. The review of socio-economic data includes a demographic profile, urban and rural conditions, women's work, women's pay, education, health, legal rights, and political participation. It also covers the cooperative movement and the national development plan. The second section inventories women's organizations and organizations with programs for women, both indigenous and international, public and private. A third section reviews USAID/Guatemala mission policy and practice, with specific recommendations for programming.

The picture drawn from the socio-economic data is one of increasing pressure on rural women to find new sources of income and the impact of inflation, poor housing, and lack of employment opportunities on urban women. The largest single category of female employment in the formal sector is domestic service; women are represented in the labor movement which is, however, weak and under political pressure. They have much lower participation in cooperatives. Women earn less; single, divorced and widowed women are 43% of the urban and 30% of the rural population. Average literacy is 39% for females and 52% for males. Female university enrollment is 30% of the total, and nonformal education focuses on homemaking and health education.

Specific recommendations begin by noting that women in development efforts should not be isolated but an integrated part of all development programming. Support is recommended for a women's office in the Bureau of Labor and for

changes in the census as well as support for women in the civil service; closer coordination with the Peace Corps and the formation of a PVO Council are advised, and a "WID impact" project questionnaire is provided.

32 tables and graphs.

Jacqueline Novak Smucker

THE ROLE OF RURAL HAITIAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT  
(Port Au Prince, Haiti: February, 1981) 69 pages plus  
bibliography (5 pages)

This study presents both a literature review and the results of interviews and field observations. Smucker notes that as modernization occurs, women's status deteriorates, but cautions that responses to this fact are too often based on the U.S. experience. She reviews the structure of marriage in Haiti, noting that children, not the male/female bond, define the family. Women have primary responsibility for child care, household management, and expenditures. The report reviews income earning activities available to women, ranging from cassava making to handicrafts, factory work and salt collection. Her case study is of a market woman, and marketing activities can have negative effects, including a reduced effort on home gardens, and thus on food self-sufficiency and nutrition (though men are often the ones responsible for home gardens), producing a domestic role shift and the absent mother phenomenon. She presents some data on salaries and "profit" rates from small scale enterprise. Data on education reflects Haiti's poverty: only 29% of males and 18% of females are literate. Smucker reviews projects and the impact of voluntary international organizations, particularly in the area of training, and argues that local organizations tend to be run by men as the public sphere is male-dominated. Credit is needed, not just for market activities, but to increase agricultural production for the internal market.

#### IV. NEAR EAST

Cynthia Myntti

##### WOMEN IN RURAL YEMEN

(1978) 49 pages plus appendices and 1 page bibliography

The primary source for this study is a demographic survey in three rural areas representing three main ecological zones, with emphasis on the impact of male migration, although Myntti's approach is qualitative. The introduction situates women in a political context as well as an economic context in the Middle East: "working age males are Yemen's most valuable export." Male migration has had an effect on women's roles and the rural social structure, increasing rural income disparities. Life expectancy is only 45 years, and only 2% of Yemen's women are literate.

Myntti reviews Islamic law, customary restrictions on women, and the degree to which there is a community of women. She then turns to women and household decision making, including fertility decisions. Men dominate cash crops and paid work in general, although widows and divorced women are "freer" to do paid work. As incomes rise, more labor is hired and there is less female participation in raising crops; livestock and poultry are female responsibilities. Loss of male labor reduces grain production, but not subsistence production where men have not had crucial roles. Male absence reduces birthrates, but it is still too soon to see the effects on attitudes. The final section discusses the debate over imposing the Western view which equates development with bringing women into the male world of education and the modern workforce.

The author is from the Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics, and did an earlier study for A.I.D. on the incorporation of women into the modern sector in Yemen.

Rima Tutunui

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN JORDAN

(Amman, Jordan: 1978) Text: 12 pages, plus 22 pages of interview reports and an appendix on female participation in intraining programs

Although there is a brief discussion of the economic situation in Jordan, where 70% of the population is urban and most of it concentrated in Amman, the primary focus of this study is education and vocational training for women. Females are 46% of the primary school population and almost 36% of university students. Female participation in technical training has been primarily in the traditional fields of secretarial, nursing, and teaching. Traditional attitudes still persist about marriage and the family. Although the divorce rate is rising rapidly, divorced women do not live alone but return to their father's house. Enrollment in vocational training programs results from "negative reasons," -- i.e., failure to achieve university acceptance -- and women who marry often drop out of the labor force. The official figures show 4.8% of the female population is in the labor force; 77.9% of women ages 20-80 are married. Generally, training is not offered to women in traditionally male fields, and there is little linkage between vocational fields offered women and the development needs of the country. The author is with the Department of Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Labor.