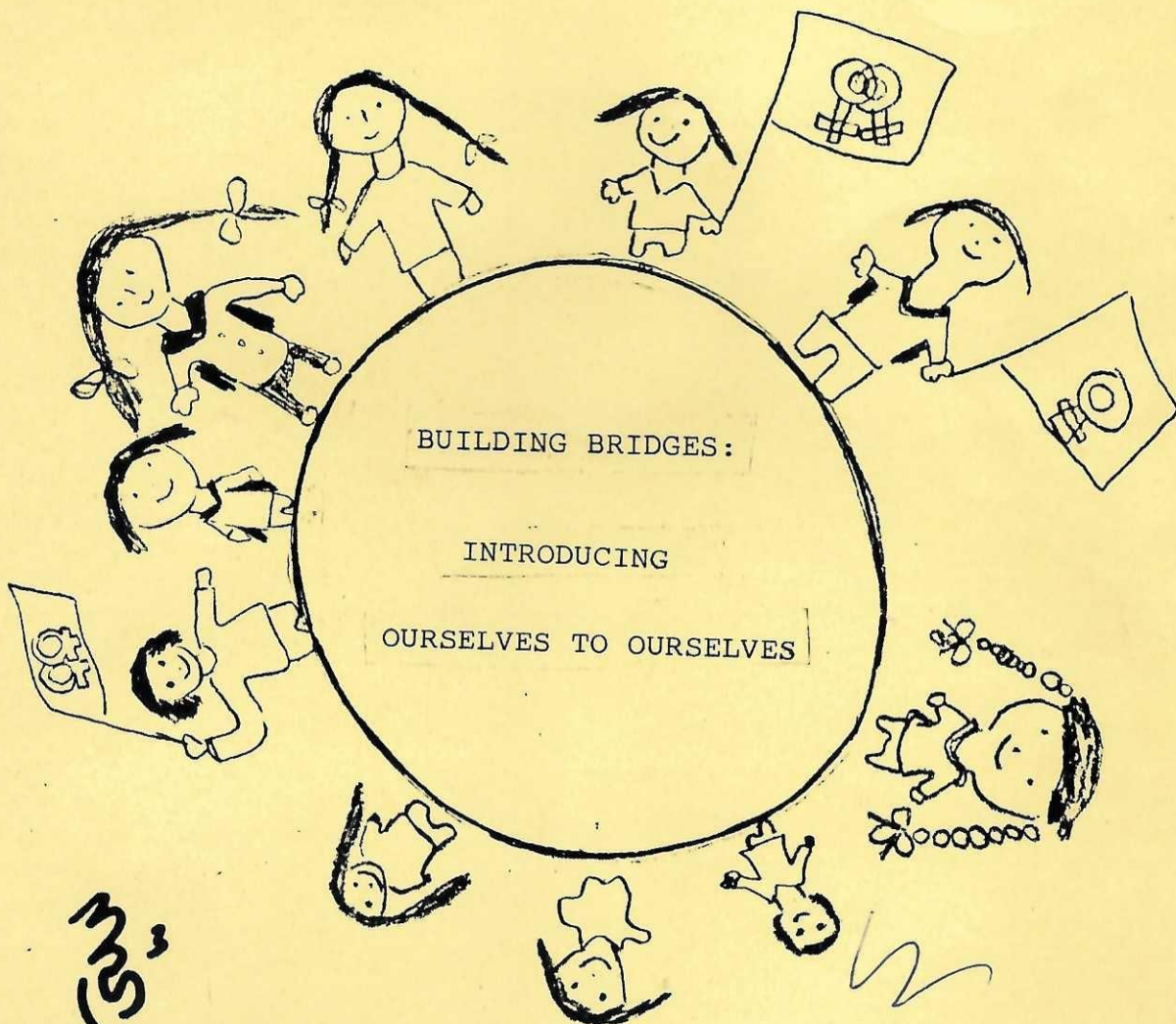


Trinjari

A WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER I

JANUARY 1986



SIMORGH
WOMEN'S RESOURCE AND PUBLICATION CENTRE.

Flat 4, 1st Floor, Shiraz Plaza, Main Market, Gulberg-II, Lahore.

In the story of the Conference of the Birds, by the twelfth Century Persian poet Attar, the hoopoe, the symbol of inspiration, assembles the birds (or faculties) to begin the Quest for the fabulous Simorgh. Those who are attached to the phenomenal world give excuses for not making the journey. The nightingale, that aspect of self caught in the exterior form of things, cannot leave the rose- the duck cannot leave the water- the hawk cannot leave its prey. Only those faculties which have been awakened to the inner aspect of things, and see beyond materiality, choose to make the journey towards completion.

At the end of the Quest, the birds find that the Simorgh has been with them, guiding them from within, throughout the journey. The goal of the Quest is the Self.

INTRODUCTION TO SIMORGH

Simorgh is a multidimensional, multidisciplinary women's enterprise which aims to improve the status and condition of women in Pakistan. Simorgh's point of departure is to question and to redefine women's roles within the existing social order. In addition to this Simorgh hopes to explore and to encourage women's quest for a new social order based not only on the equality of woman and man within the existing system, but one which rests on a humanity that allows the individuality of each of us, female or male, to develop and find expression.

Simorgh operates on the premise that the formation of human consciousness and awareness arises out of specific material circumstances but that these same circumstances are perpetuated by existing levels of consciousness. Any efforts therefore to change the social order must be directed at both levels.

Simorgh further operates on the premise that women must themselves play a major role in bringing about the changes that they seek; by actively challenging the external order but also by actively and simultaneously changing themselves. In order to do this women must be armed with knowledge, skills and with economic independence. Moreover they must be conscious of the role that the dominant culture plays in keeping them in their present positions; and they must seek and get the support of each other.

This is no easy task in a country, where "knowledge", 'education', and 'information' are monopolised by a particular class/group; where communication of ideas and skills is in an exclusive domain; where the economic structure is designed to perpetuate the existing social order (and vice versa); and where even 'independent' and 'conscious' women stop short of challenging the essence of an order which perpetuates the political, economic, social, cultural and personal oppression of women. Thus to bring about any change, the consciousness of women and of society at large must be influenced and strengthened. This can only be done by breaking down the walls that limit ideas and knowledge and disseminating these at all levels.

Simorgh's activities and mode of operation is given on page 18.
Cover and Drawings by Maryam Rehman: Age - 6 years.

EDITORIAL

"Trinjan" is a concept, a technique and a process. While the term itself only refers to the activity of spinning cotton into yarn, the concept and the historical context in which it functioned gives us women not only a cultural link with our own past but it also provides the essential ingredient for the feminist movement in Pakistan (and indeed for the feminist movement at the global level).

In pre-industrial society it was customary for women to get together of an evening to spin cotton into yarn. These women would meet regularly in each others courtyards, each bringing with her her unspun cotton, and if possible food (often just a handful of grain and some 'gur') to sit together and spin and talk away the time. Often the sittings would last all night or at least until the flame from the light used by them died out. This process not only helped them economically, for it is said that the quantity of yarn produced at these sittings was greater than that produced individually in the same time span, but it increased a sense of community among these women. This process enabled them to create a space for themselves which was exclusively female. Relieved of the dominance of male interference and male pressure they came together to work, but also to talk and to laugh; to sing and to exchange views and news. Here they both sought and gave advice to each other. These, it is said by those who remember, were joyous, informal and non-hierarchical occasions, where individual sorrows were shared and lightened, where differences were sorted out, where knowledge and experiences were shared and the bond of sisterhood was affirmed.

This tradition as an activity has fallen into disuse and with it the sense of community that women shared. But the need to share our problems and our experiences, the need to work collectively, and to be in touch with our own experiences remains. In fact in the complex society in which we now live we need more than ever to reach out to each other, to 'develop' each other, to share our knowledge and our skills and

to support each other (without "taking over" each others' activities) in our effort to work towards a non-patriarchal and just society.

Simorgh believes that the feminist movement is multifaceted, for the development of women means a "development" in its totality. All aspects of that totality therefore must be linked together. In other words, what we need is a new form of Trinjan. This newsletter is an attempt to facilitate this. That is, to provide a multifaceted "gathering" in which we can reach out to each other. In this issue we have sectioned off some aspects, while trying at the same time to establish the links and the flow from one to the other. In subsequent issues some of these aspects may be dropped and others incorporated but the idea basically remains the same: To get to know each other, to share, to link up and to move forward together.

This first issue is somewhat general but because of it's introductory nature, this was unavoidable. Later we hope to be more specific and to give more "information". Please write to us if you have any comments, questions or suggestions. Also please send us any information that you have on any of the aspects so that we can include this in later issues. The purpose of this newsletter will not be served if we get no information from you. Sharing and building bridges are the key to our movement. Let us also do this so that we can infact move forward together.



It is said that there was once a village, where, as is customary in most villages in the Punjab, the men met together at the 'chopal' at nightfall to relax and discuss the days work. The women too had their own chopal, — the trinjan — where they brought their unspun yarn to work and talk and spin the night away.

The reason why this story is told here is because of what befell the women of this particular trinjan and how their activities came to an end. We are told that gradually, and over a period of time, the sharing of knowledge and resources that took place at the trinjan, wrought a wonderful and visible change in these women. They became more sure of themselves, more self-reliant, more confident.

It would have seemed that it was now a time for rejoicing. But strangely enough — or perhaps it is not so strange — it was at this time that the tranquility of the village was disrupted.

Rumours began. It was whispered that these women were dangerous — that they had gained secret knowledge — that they were familiar with the black arts (and a danger to society).

The whisperings soon became news and then the news became fact. From every corner of the market-place fearful voices clamoured that religion was in danger! society was in danger! civilisation was in danger!

Then the village council met and the men agreed that the source of the danger lay in the 'trinjan' and in the women who possessed this knowledge. With this belief came the recognition that these women, whom they feared, were no strangers. They were the mothers and the wives, the daughters and the sisters on whose love and service depended the security and comfort, not only of the present gathering, but that of future generations as well. And then the decision to act was taken —

That night, when the trinjan met and the merriment was at it's height, shadowy figures crept out of the surrounding darkness and set the thatched pindal on fire. The pindal and it's inmates were razed to the ground, and its ashes dispersed with the wind.

There is no record of this story in the best known tales and epics of this area. It belongs to the female tradition and has been passed on from mother to daughter for generations. That mainstream tradition dismisses it as an old wive's tale and gives it no credence is evidence of the oppression and exploitation of women in patriarchy and serves as a warning to women who come together to fight against their subjection.

(Based on Farkhanda Lodhi's presentation at a workshop; verified by Zainab, Jaina, Rukiya Bibi and Firdous).

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

While many of us are interested in "doing something" for women, even the most conscious among us are hampered by not knowing what to do and how to go about it. This is not only due to the fact that research or information collection is not encouraged in Pakistan, but even when such information exists, we are not aware or how to locate it. This "problem" is compounded by the fact that with increasing specialisation and an increasing sophistication in the disciplines of knowledge, the gap between those who "know" and those who need to know is growing. This is not least because those who "know" like to keep this information to themselves.

Much of the best research is also done in English partly because we resist renouncing our colonial heritage; partly because our educational standards have deteriorated to the point that the only way to keep up with new ideas is to interact in an international language, but also because research in Pakistan is unfortunately invariably sponsored by external agencies and for them English must be used.

But research or information is of no use unless it is used, and specifically by those who want to bring about a change. Unfortunately activists shy away from research (and researchers), mainly because it is invariably published in a form that is alienating and mystifying but also because information collection, planning, evaluation and reflection are considered a waste of time by those doing "real" work. Yet this very process eventually avoids a wastage of time, energy and resources, as it gives a direction to the work itself. Every effort must therefore be made to bridge the gap between research/information and action and at this stage the onus for this falls directly on the researcher who has been most responsible for keeping such knowledge in an exclusive domain.

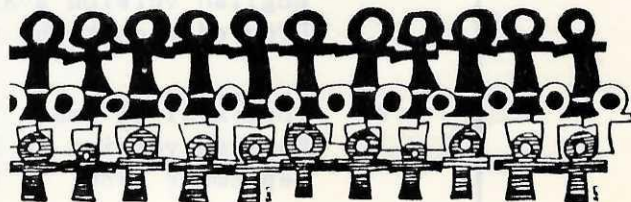
In each issue of our subsequent newsletters we will give information on the research work being undertaken by different institutions and individuals. We also hope to be able to pass on any other

information or material available and if possible the location and procedure of how to obtain them. We also hope to put pressure on various institutions, agencies and individuals to publish their work in simple language and also to translate these into the languages understood by a larger number of people.

Apart from other institutions research, studies on women are available with:

1. The Research Wing of the Women's Division, Islamabad.
2. The Pakistan Academy for Rural Development, Peshawar.
3. The Agricultural University, Faisalabad.
4. Many of the Social Science Departments of Pakistani Universities.
5. International Agencies sponsoring such research.

In future issues of this newsletter the research material available in each institution will be given with the addresses and/or contact persons. It is hoped that individual researchers will also send us information on their work and will infact use this newsletter as a forum for developing research ideas and methodologies, especially those that can easily be used by non-researchers. In subsequent issues we also intend to outline procedures of how to conceptualize and implement a research study and to indicate how and by whom such studies can be sponsored. We hope that this will enable more and more women and organisations to undertake their own research so that research, reflection, monitoring and evaluation can become a part of all women's activities. It is imperative for us women to know about and understand the essence of our oppression if we are to plan our struggles to change our present situation.



The following studies/reports/materials are, or will be available through Simorgh. Most of these are free but when ordering any material please enclose the necessary postage:

1. Dhamak Dham - feminist poems for children
by Kamla Bhasin - Urdu
available through Simorgh April 1986. No charge
2. Rural Women and Income Generation
by Nighat Said Khan et. al
English version available through Simorgh or ASR
Applied Socio-Economic Research, 19-B White House
Lane, Sunder Das Road, Lahore. No charge
3. Listing and Preliminary Analysis of Income Generation
Schemes in the Punjab
by Nighat Said Khan and Farida Shaheed
English version available through UNICEF Punjab,
Simorgh or ASR.
Urdu version available by Mid 1986. No charge
4. Industrial Expansion- Women's Employment, and Skill
Development
by Nighat Said Khan
English version available by June 1986 through ASR or
Simorgh.
Urdu version available through ASR or Simorgh by
September 1986. No charge
5. Towards Empowerment
by Kamla Bhasin (Report of a Regional Women's Training
Programme)
English edition available from the office of the
Coordinator FAO FFHC/AD, Via delle Termi di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy or FAO FFHC/AD Programme Officer
55 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi - 110 001, India.
Urdu version available from Simorgh by Mid 1986.
No charge
6. Women in Agriculture
English version available through FAO/FFHC Delhi or Rome
Urdu to be available through ASR or Simorgh
by September 1986 No charge
7. Role and Training of Development Activists
by Kamla Bhasin
English version available through FAO FFHC Office Delhi,
or FAO FFHC Rome.
Urdu edition to be available through ASR by Mid 1986
No charge
8. Formulating Projects with People
by Kamla Bhasin and Datta Savela
English version available through FAO/FFHC Office Delhi
Urdu edition to be available through ASR by Mid 1986
No charge
9. Portrayal of Women in The Media
English version to be available through Simorgh by
September 1986. Price of photocopying or publication cost.

WOMEN'S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Research, information and consciousness should necessarily lead to action, individually or collectively. "Necessarily" because we cannot hope to move forward unless we do act, and that means we must join hands, we must organize ourselves and we must struggle to bring about the changes that we seek.— But this coming together which makes for a women's "Movement" must not be misunderstood. This does not imply that all women in Pakistan must be members of any single organization for no "Movement" is a single entity. On the contrary, by its very definition, a movement is a coming together of several forces within an overall common framework. The Women's Movement itself can and should keep moving forward but as it does, the less progressive groups will fall back and more radical ones will emerge and join. Still, in the process all individuals, groups and organizations that adhere to the programme have their roles to play and at this stage in Pakistan there is a definite need for each one of us to know about each other, to link up with each other and to struggle together.

This section on women's groups hopes to facilitate such linkages. In this issue we will lay out the different types of groups or organizations that exist and discuss one in detail. In subsequent issues information on other organizations will be given with contact addresses so that we can share information, be "resource centres" for each other so that we can support and learn from each other's activities. We also hope to discuss the conceptual/theoretical and tactical issues that arise from these experiences so that together we can arrive at different levels of clarity. Women's organizations in Pakistan fall into the following broad categories:

- A) PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS usually with an international or national identity. By and large their purpose is to promote and protect the professional interests of their members although on occasion they have been known to take a stand on the larger issues of women's rights.
- B) WOMEN'S SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS which usually do charity or 'development' work with or without external/government funds. These may exist at all levels - from national down to the village level. Usually such organizations will be discussed in our section on non-government organisations, except when they take stands on women's issues and women rights. In the recent past in Pakistan many of these organizations have taken a stand on the issue of women's rights. The most notable in this context has been the stand taken on changes in the law by the All Pakistan Women's Association.
- C) WOMEN'S WINGS or arms of mixed groups such as political parties, trade unions, peasant organisations and religious organizations. As the term implies these are women's wings and not autonomous women's organizations. These may or may not take up specific women's issues (recently in Pakistan they have been focusing on women) but ultimately they are confined by the overall policies of the main organization.
- D) WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS GROUPS which seek equal rights within the existing system. The aim of these organizations is to fight against discrimination especially in the legal and economic sphere. Some of these may also be involved in promoting economic activities and even in social welfare work, but primarily their aim is to raise awareness and to organize women around specific issues usually of a legal nature. Women's Action Forum (National), which started off as being a different type of group is now the most known and organized in this category (see insert for information on Women's Action Forum National, Lahore).
- E) WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE/DOCUMENTATION CENTRE etc. Only a few of these exist. Their orientation and theoret-

tical under-pinnings may differ but as the classification implies, they have in common the fact that they offer services to assist individuals and groups to strengthen their own initiatives.

F) FEMINIST GROUPS are new in Pakistan but the few that do exist will be highlighted in subsequent issues of this newsletter. Basically feminist groups may be differentiated in the first instance in that they seek to examine and challenge all forms of Patriarchal structures. They try to operate on a collective basis and approach the women's issue from a feminist perspective. Thus they go a step beyond the equal rights groups in that they seek to challenge and to change the system rather than to merely bring reforms within it. At the same time feminist groups are those which encompass the five dimensions of struggle against oppression in the third world, that is national, class, gender, cultural (religion, ethnicity and caste) and personal oppression.

The above are broad categories. Many groups or organizations do infact overlap but as mentioned earlier, all the

above have specific roles to play in the women's movement. The feminist movement itself, however, needs to work with the movements of other oppressed classes and indeed all such movements need to influence each other in the process. But while working with other movements, the feminist movement must remain autonomous, so that the women's issue is not subsumed by other simultaneous struggles. This last point needs to be emphasized because this need for autonomy in the women's movement is so often subject to ridicule and attack especially by other progressive forces. But the rationale behind this need is no different from the rationale used in support of the autonomy of peasant and/or worker struggles: We support the autonomy of class/ethnic and national movements etc., because we argue that an oppressed class must in the first instance work out for itself the nature of it's oppression and the strategies to fight it. This is as true for the feminist movement as it is for all similar struggles and the autonomy of the feminist movement must be seen as a necessary stage in the process towards an equal and a just society.



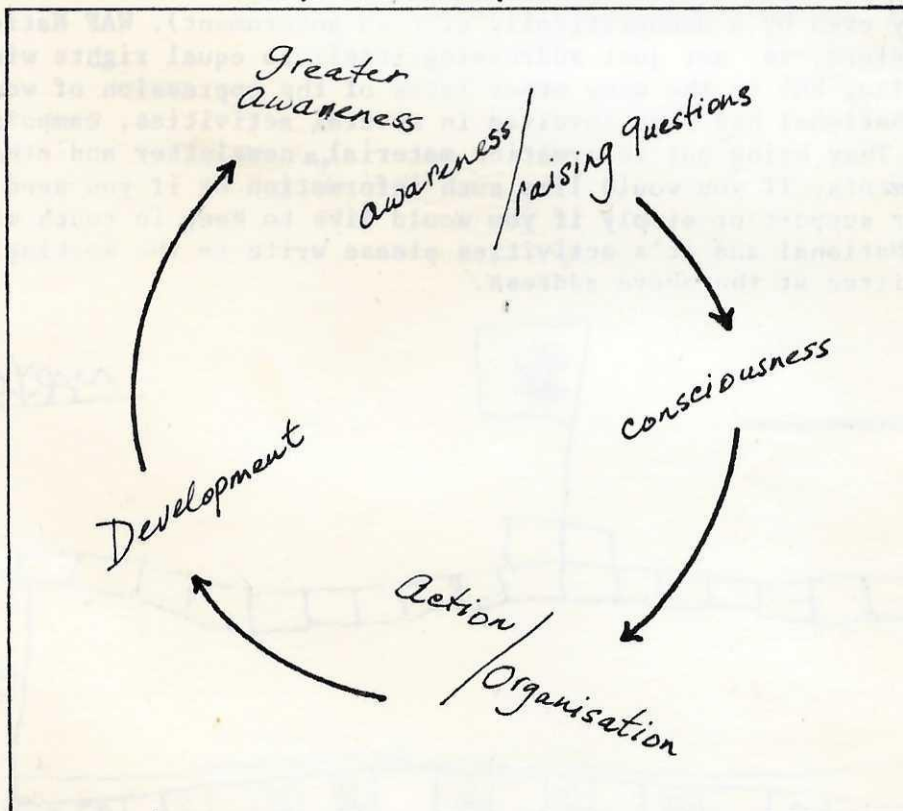
women's action forum
P. O. Box 3287 Gulberg, Lahore

خواتین محاذِ عمل
پوسٹ بکس نمبر ۳۲۸۷ گلبرگ لاہور

Women's Action Forum was founded in September 1981 by a group of women in Karachi. Soon after a chapter opened in Lahore and a little later in Rawalpindi/Islamabad. The impetus that led to the founding of WAF was a growing sense of insecurity among women brought about by the Haddood Ordinance, 1979 and various other measures and pronouncements made by the government which were designed to isolate and segregate women from the mainstream of national life.

From its very inception WAF tried to organize itself in a manner that was unusual in Pakistan. Not only did it promote a non-hierarchical, non-political (defined in terms of struggling for and seeking government control) and non-governmental structure but it also sought not to confine this group in the form of an organization. On the contrary it saw itself as a "forum" for like-minded organizations and individuals involved in raising the consciousness of women and society in general, and in lobbying for the rights and status of women. WAF Lahore clearly saw its role not as an organization or movement struggling for women's rights but as strengthening and empowering women to struggle for their own rights, as defined and interpreted by them in their own spheres of activities. However, as increasingly discriminatory laws came to the force at the national level, WAF Lahore became the focus of the struggle against these laws, and it came under pressure from various sections of society including other women to reinterpret itself and for it to become an organization in itself with a specific membership. Since this was totally contrary to what the founders of WAF had envisaged, such a re-interpretation was resisted by the Working Committee who argued then that WAF was only a loose consciousness-raising and lobbying group. The role of WAF was to create an awareness. This it felt would help raise consciousness for women to act in their own behalf (within existing organizations or by forming new ones). Such organizations or collective actions would in turn lead to the empowerment and the development of women and that this would create a new awareness for further action.

WAF concept

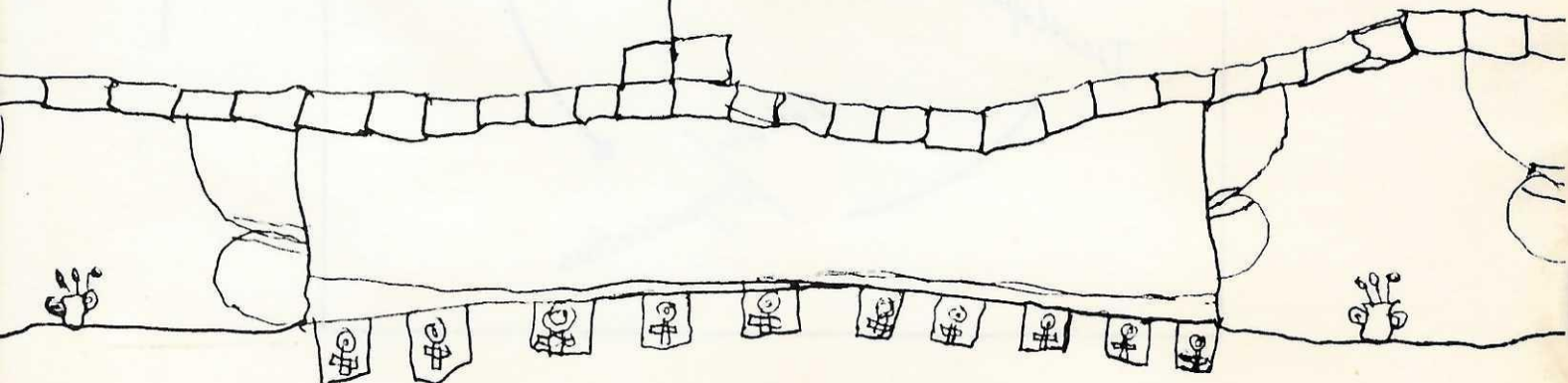


However a small group of 7 women from the WAF General Body impatient to use the name and experience of WAF for immediate personal and political purposes, without the knowledge or consent of the general body or even the founders of WAF, registered themselves as WAF. But as a social welfare organization. This group is now called WAF Democratic while the original WAF is called WAF National, since it is part of the WAF chapters in other cities.

While a majority of those with WAF National remained with the organization, the questions raised by the minority regarding formal structures and elections etc. found support in the General Body of WAF National mainly because the experimental nature of WAF's functioning was too new and too different to grasp in what was a short period of time. WAF National therefore itself changed and became an organisation with a formal membership. Since then the two WAF's in Lahore have functioned independently (although they come together on specific issues) but there is increasing pressure for a merger of the two. Differences however still remain on the nature of WAF Democratic's registration (and the fraudulent way in which it was registered); on whether WAF should be a social welfare organisation as well as an activist group (WAF National disagrees with this); on whether WAF should take funds from International and Local agencies (WAF National does not take such funds); or whether WAF should be registered at all (WAF National has questions on the implications of registration) and on WAF's relationship with the political parties (WAF National sees itself as always being outside government, so as to maintain it's independence but also because WAF National does not believe that the women's issue will be solved automatically even by a democratically elected government). WAF National, therefore, is not just addressing itself to equal rights within the law, but to the many other facts of the oppression of women. WAF National has been involved in several activities, campaigns etc. They bring out information material, a newsletter and other documents. If you would like such information or if you need any other support or simply if you would like to keep in touch with WAF National and it's activities please write to the Working Committee at the above address.



MARYAM



NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Information based on research, consciousness raising and fighting for women's rights is an extremely important element in the struggle for the development of women but in itself it is not enough. What is also imperative is the economic independence of women. The two are interdependent and one cannot exist without the other. The economic independence of women therefore must also receive attention by activists. This section on NGO's will therefore focus on the types of activities undertaken by NGO's but subsequent issues will focus specifically on individual, innovative or experimental initiatives.

The connotation of an NGO in Pakistan is generally a non-government 'charitable' or 'social welfare' orientated organization, sometimes with a bit of community development thrown in for good measure. In the Punjab over 2000 such NGOs are registered with the Social Welfare Department alone, quite apart from the thousands of others registered under the Societies Act or with the Department of Co-operatives, the Zakat Department etc.

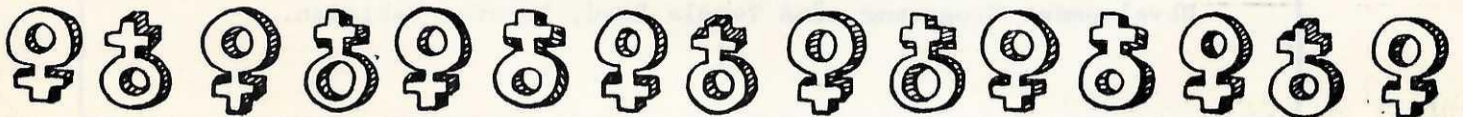
Some of these smaller, community NGO's both rural and urban are well organized community endeavours and when involved with community development have contributed to setting up village/mohalla schools, building small sanitary and drainage systems and running dispensaries, credit societies, family welfare and adult education centres etc. However the philosophy behind many of these is still "social welfare" and the approach is of doing 'good works' for the community rather than with it.

This is true also of all the women's programmes undertaken by various NGOs since 1975 when funds became available for women's projects. These projects are invariably "home based" and teaching

"feminine" skills, more for the purpose of saving family income or perhaps making a little "pocket money" than for income generation. The skills learnt are not necessarily linked with work and therefore income is not linked with women's status. Nevertheless NGO's are by definition voluntary and independent of government control in terms of policy making and choice of areas of work and they can use any number of entry points to achieve their objectives. NGO's therefore can be very valuable as catalysts and pioneers of new ideas and experiments. New ideas and new methods of working are definitely needed for programmes geared towards the mainstream development of women. Those NGO's who seek this mainstream orientation towards women's programmes must co-operate with each other and must share each other's experiences.

In each issue of this newsletter different aspects of NGO work and their conceptual frameworks will be discussed. Interesting initiatives will also be highlighted and information given on the experiences and resources of different NGO's so that these can be shared to strengthen individual NGO work and to strengthen the NGO movement.

We also hope to explore the different aspects of programme project formulation, proposal writing, funding possibilities, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, information on skill development, marketing, accountancy systems etc. will be discussed, and more importantly on participatory action research, community self help projects, self management, mobilization and organization of community women - among the various other aspects of women and development.



THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN is a voluntary organization working at grassroots level nationally since 1953. The FPAP has with limited resources and personnel, in an often uncondusive environment for family planning, undertaken activities in the areas of rural community development, communication, education, training, research and more recently youth and women's development.

In 1978 the FPAP initiated a women's development programme recognizing that although contraceptive efforts have been directed at women, their perceptions and priority needs as individuals had not been always considered. The broad objectives of this programme are to help improve the status of women through raising their consciousness and participation in economic and social spheres. Efforts at providing such opportunities for developing this potential through informal education, improved skills, credit schemes for income generating activities and formation of women groups, training of women especially those with leadership qualities at grassroots level, in management of project activities is a focal point of the programme. At present there are 47 locations all over Pakistan, mainly in rural areas. The few urban projects also focus on disadvantaged women. Health and family planning services, some day care and pre-school centres, youth groups and work centres are part of it's activities.

Collaboration with government and other NGOs at all levels is an important aspect of this programme. Representatives of these are involved in training programmes which are the only one of their kind at present.

The need for integrated programmes for women is based on the fact that no aspect of their lives can be treated in isolation. Their confidence and decision-making abilities can only be increased if womens' total wellbeing is considered. Only then can major decisions involving control over their bodies be taken.

The programme has successful areas such as training, providing services including innovative ones, credit schemes, training of trainers for adult and continuing education, formation of women's and youth groups. But these areas need further development and strengthening. Marketing, especially with the active involvement of the women themselves is a major need. The involvement and organization of the poorest of the poor is also an area requiring more attention.

Details of specific FPAP women's programmes will be given in subsequent issues. Please write to the FPAP for any additional information you may require as well as for a list of materials that the FPAP can make available.

Family Planning Association of Pakistan, Senior Director, Women's Development Programme, 3-A Temple Road, Lahore, Pakistan.

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES/DONORS

Almost all the activities mentioned require resources. Of these committed personnel is perhaps the most important, but often the lack of funds or the energy required to raise them become a major problem for several types of initiatives. In this newsletter we do intend to regularly focus on the issue of resources, including the problem/issue of funds. We also hope to identify the type of work being undertaken by International and other funding agencies and the other resources (materials, information etc.) available with them. Apart from the government itself, funds are also available for development programmes under bilateral assistance (or aid) from the governments of other countries. Bilateral aid is normally required to be channelled through our own government although sometimes small amounts can be given directly. We will be identifying the procedure for getting this type of assistance in later issues.

Similarly funds are available through various International (usually UN) agencies and International donor NGOs. Usually each of these has different sections sometimes with very different mandates and again we will pass on what information we can get on them.

However, as said earlier, resources are not only a question of funds. Many of these assistance programmes are directly involved in implementation and some of these experiences are very useful. At the same time some agencies have developed specializations and skills that can be tapped and much of their information material, training tools etc. can be made available. In each issue we will pass on information of some aspect of this issue including how to get the information or other materials AND on how to apply for funds and other resources. In this issue, to give an idea of the type of information that could be made available, we will focus briefly on one international agency and in the insert highlight one of its projects.

United Nations International Children's Educational Fund is one of the largest international agencies in Pakistan and perhaps the only one with offices in each of the provinces. The fund started with a focus on children and the mothers of children. Later, as a result of the Decade of women it started redirecting its focus, so as to encompass the development of women in general. However UNICEF still sees a lot of ground that needs to be covered in terms of its Women in Development Programme, for even now, although all programmes have a direct bearing on women, only a few relate specifically to women and development. UNICEF's package of sectoral programmes cover water, sanitation, health, nutrition, disability, formal education and local level planning. While in all these programmes (except local level planning) there is an understanding that success depends on women's acceptance or implementing capacity, women are only incidental beneficiaries.

Nevertheless UNICEF is at the same time one of the most supportive agencies in terms of new and innovative projects and programmes. UNICEF has also developed a range of training materials (including audio visual aids) and it is in the process of developing these further as well as encouraging a new approach on women within UNICEF itself. Although Trinjan will be providing specific information on these (and projects and resources of other agencies) much of the information can be had from UNICEF directly either by writing to the Head Office:

UNICEF,
58 Khayaban-e-Iqbal,
F-7/2, P.O.Box 1063,
Islamabad.

or for the Punjab.

UNICEF,
'Punjab' Programme Officer,
8-A, Ali Block, New Garden Town,
Lahore-16.

UNICEF SPONSORED PROJECT IN BALDIA

This is a community based project in Baldia Town, Katchi abadi in Karachi. The success of this project rests almost entirely on the commitment and motivation of the community worker initially in charge of it. This worker, a woman, was able to motivate the community to build their own soak pits and to keep their lanes clean. While this was success enough, what is even more important is the off shoots of this sanitation programme.

The catalyst was able to develop a new 'educational' scheme based on the educational needs of the community. She therefore initiated a home school scheme (without regular classes or regular hours). This initiative has spread through a relay basis and independently of the sanitation project and now there are over 100 such schools in the community.

A further development of this is that the home school teachers have now formed their own organization. This has been able to get it's own funds which have enabled them to expand it's activities into the areas of income generation and the development of women. This in itself is remarkable but the newly acquired confidence, the self management skills and the initiative among these women, who only a few years ago could not go on their own from one lane in the community to another, is remarkable. There are lessons in this initiative for all of us. Further details on the scheme can be obtained from Qurat ul Ain, Urban Programme Officer, UNICEF, 24 Old Clifton, Karachi.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT & PROGRAMMES

When we talk about the development of women we not only mean development in a totality but also development in the mainstream. This necessarily means that at this national level we are talking about programmes that must be pushed through main line Government Departments so that they have the largest possible spread. Therefore in each issue of this newsletter we will discuss different Government Departments in terms of what they do and how they can be influenced.

At the same time we will pass on what information we can get as to individual

departmental programmes, and the resources and facilities available with each, so that at different levels women can learn to take advantage of opportunities that may already exist. In this issue we are starting our section on Government Department's with a discussion on the Women's Division because the Women's Division was infact set up to influence these programmes of main line Departments.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

The Women's Rights Committee set up under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto suggested in 1976 that a permanent Women's Rights Commission be set up not only as a watchdog, but as the highest policy making body for women's interests in the country. Instead, General Zia ul Haq, while addressing an international

seminar on "Women and their potential" on 12th October 1978 expressed the need for a Women's Division. Four days later a Division was created in the Cabinet Secretariat to work for the improvement in the quality of life of women (particularly of women in the rural areas) and to be concerned with the solutions of problems peculiar to women in general, and working women in particular. The objective of the Division was to evolve a development-oriented strategy, incorporating the urban and rural poor in order to help policy-makers to channel funds to those programmes that had already shown their utility in the past. In other words the Women's Division was to conceive and to implement pilot projects which, if successful, could be incorporated into large scale departmental programmes. Implementation was to be entirely through existing government machinery although each department was to be encouraged to have its own women's programme. The Women's Division has four internal sections.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE WING handles administration, records, finance and accounts. It is run by government servant cadre and therefore operates within the bureaucratic framework established for other government departments.

THE RESEARCH WING is headed by a female sociologist who originally taught at Karachi University. It was envisaged that research on women was needed in the first instance to effectively design programmes and plans for women, and also to monitor and evaluate the effects of such programmes on the women participating in them, and on their families, their communities and society at large. The research is given out on a consultancy basis to male and female researchers. A total of 25 research studies were sponsored during 1979-1981, although even that year funds available were not completely utilised. Since then the number of studies commissioned has dropped considerably and unutilised funds are returned to the Government every year. This is partly due to bureaucratic delays but also because the Programme Wing, instead of using the research to develop and evaluate its programme, is antagonistic to the research, and particularly to evaluations of its own initiatives, and therefore vetoes suggestions made by the research wing. While the research is not used by the Women's Division it is also not being made available to others who may need it. So far only six of the original 25 studies have been published, although short brochures of the rest have been printed. These are circulated to government departments or given as gift packages to special visitors to the Women's Division - but usually they are sent with official delegations to international conferences. None of the findings of these studies are generally circulated and no attempt is made to disseminate the information to working women or to the rural and urban women on whom the Women's Division focuses.

THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS WING. Although the Women's Rights Wing should be the most important wing of the Division, it is in fact the most ineffective, mainly because 'rights' is a political issue and the Division is a government department and, as such, cannot challenge the government. To make it even more ineffective this Wing is always headed by a male civil servant and has limited itself to holding national conferences to elicit the views of women. However,

none of the recommendations of these conferences have been implemented with the exception of a demand made at one of the conferences for a national Commission on the Status of Women.

THE PROGRAMME WING is also headed by a woman, but in this case a civil servant. Although the programme wing was to have formulated projects based on the research sponsored by the Women's Division, the research has not been used and the programmes that have been developed rarely go outside the norm. Although the position in all four provinces is not identical this information concentrates on the projects initiated in the Punjab, not only because quite a few of these programmes are similar to those carried out in the other provinces but mainly because the Punjab projects have been evaluated and therefore a more realistic picture emerges than the one that is obtained from the official brochures.

At the Punjab government level, several departments are implementing Women's Division Programmes - and all of these are within the overall concepts developed by the Women's Division which are adult literacy, skill development and income generation. At the field level, many of these projects have failed to meet the claims of the Women's Division. For instance, the claim that 38 female field assistants trained in 1980-81 were working, was denied by the Agricultural Extension Department which executes this programme. This department says that even the posts in the original 38 pilot centres have not been filled and further that those that have been staffed have shown a poor performance. In fact, the Department considers the scheme a total failure.

Regardless of the success or failure of individual projects the point is that the Women's Division projects are by and large, no different from the Women's Projects run by other government departments. Skill development for the Women's Division is often a euphemism for 'feminine' skills. Even those projects that appear to be 'innovative' in terms of the type of skills are conceptually no different. Income generation is not necessarily an outcome of the skills taught, and skills are often not used once the training is over. Self-sufficiency of projects is still not being looked at, and management and marketing training to women in "income generation" projects is not even conceived of as a possibility.

As far as rural projects are concerned there is a disturbing tendency to treat women's projects as peripheral to the mainstream. These, like the sewing and embroidery projects in the urban areas, will tend to marginalise rural women. Women in rural areas have so far played a mainstream role in the agricultural economy, yet the Women's Division projects are focusing on 'feminine' and 'home-based' skills. A shift from mainstream agricultural work to home-based income generation projects will be retrogressive for rural women, and in the long-run, the agro-related projects funded by the Women's Division (for instance home-based poultry projects and the making of jams and jellies) will draw women away from contributing to national development and will merely concentrate their efforts on the petty production of consumer goods.

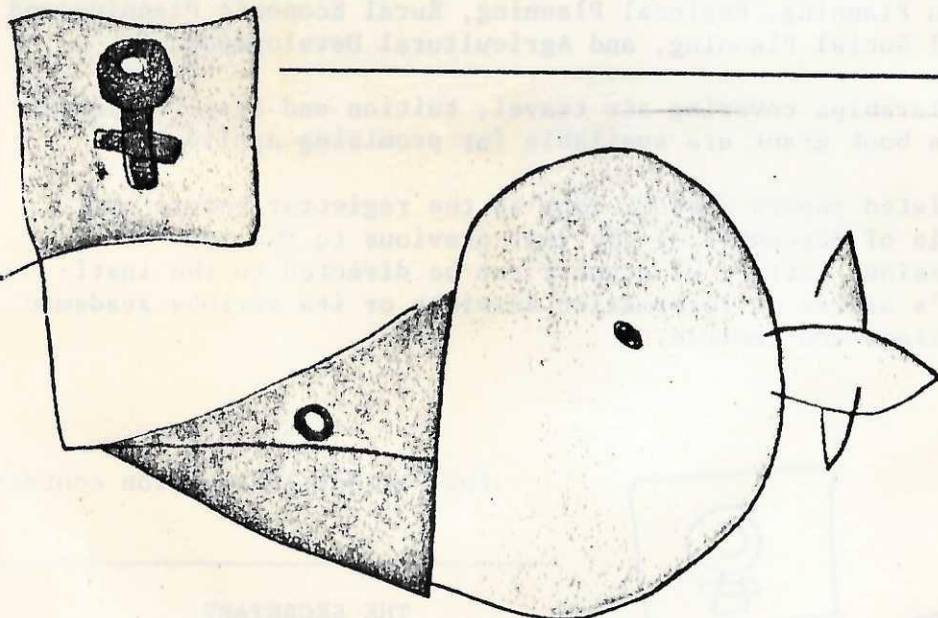
Despite many shortcomings and despite its own conceptual limitations, the Women's Division is still the only government agency attempting some innovative projects. As pilot projects, they have

more of a chance of success and if the Women's Division even intends to expand these pilots into programmes, it must pay more attention to planning, and to implementation, monitoring and evaluation so as to ensure that the pilots are a success. Only 'great' success will off-set the disturbing cynicism in the government regarding the ability of women to do anything but to cut, sew and embroider.

Although a Women's Division for the promotion of women's rights and development which is funded by a government actively pursuing anti-women legislation is almost a contradiction in terms, this Division has been able to focus some attention to the 'women's issue' in Pakistan. At times, it has been able to pressure other Government Departments to try out new programmes for women. It has initiated some research that would otherwise not have been funded and at times it has even channelled the petitions of anti-government women's organizations to the government. The women's Division therefore can, and must be tapped especially for the financial resources available to it. Any new or innovative ideas about women and mainstream development should not only be sent to the Division but the Division should be pressured into supporting them, either through it's own initiative or by releasing funds to NGO/groups for such experimentation.

If you have a research study that needs funding you should send the proposal to Dr. Sabiha Hafeez, Director Research Women's Division, 44 W, Aaly Plaza, F-6/1, Islamabad.

For project funding write to Dr. Sabiha Syed, Director General Programmes, House No.3, Street No.2, F/6-3, Islamabad.



TRAINING OURSELVES

It stands to reason that if we as women want to move forward we will have to equip ourselves with the necessary information, experience and skills.

We therefore intend to regularly include information on training opportunities available both within Pakistan and outside. We will also try to initiate training programmes and will inform you of all such plans.

FROM THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

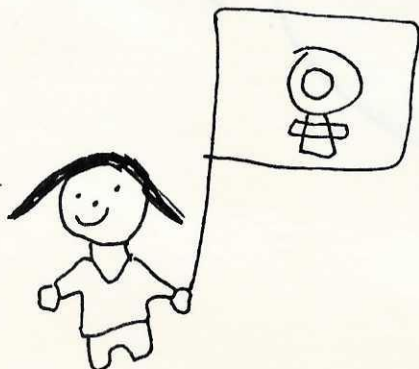
The Asian Institute of Technology, an autonomous non-profit graduate school of development and engineering, is recruiting applicants for post-graduate studies, being offered by the Division of Human Settlements Development. This will be for May 1986.

To fulfill the objectives of educating high-quality manpower, conducting research, and disseminating information which will lead to effective action on the problems facing human settlements in Asia, the division is offering two fields of study: Human Settlements and Rural Development Planning. Both focus on the integrated approach to development.

Areas of specialization include: Housing, Land Management, Urban Planning, Regional Planning, Rural Economic Planning and Rural Social Planning, and Agricultural Development.

Scholarships covering air travel, tuition and fees, bursaries and a book grant are available for promising applicants.

Completed papers must be sent to the registrar before the middle of September of the year previous to the year of admission. Letters of inquiry can be directed to the institute's office of information services or its various academic divisions and centres.



For Further Information contact:

THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
P.O.BOX 2754, BANGKOK 10501
THAILAND

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP FOR WOMEN ON DISARMAMENT

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is offering a one-year internship to begin in January 1987. It is meant for young women interested in working with an international women's organization and in gaining an understanding of the issues involved in the work for disarmament at the international level.

THE PROGRAM

Jan - Aug in Geneva, Switzerland. The intern will be accredited by WILPF to the United Nations and will be part of the WILPF team of representatives. The intern will share in the responsibility for following and reporting on the Conference on Disarmament, the only multilateral forum negotiating for disarmament. She will take part in the work of the committees of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and assist in the daily work of the Geneva office for which a knowledge of typing and simple office skills is necessary.

Sept - Dec in New York, USA. The intern travels to New York to follow the General Assembly and attend certain meetings of the Security Council and, as in Geneva, participate in meetings organized by the UN and NGOs.

In Geneva and New York, she will also have the opportunity to attend meetings on a wide variety of other issues such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted in English. Selections will be made on the basis of:

1. A resume indicating education, relevant past activities and experience.
2. A 1000-1500 word essay outlining an issue or a project the candidate wishes to explore during the year, a schedule of work, and the potential use of the project.
3. Two recommendations. People writing recommendations are asked to evaluate the candidate according to:
 - the promise she shows for initiating imaginative and realistic programs and projects relating to peace, justice and disarmament issues;
 - her skills in written and oral communication and her fluency in English;
 - her long-term commitment to working for peace and justice;
 - her maturity in dealing with other people.

People writing recommendations are asked to indicate their relationship to the applicant. All recommendations will be kept confidential upon request.

WHO CAN APPLY

The internship is for women in recognition of the fact that they are notably excluded from positions concerned with questions of foreign policy and international relations. Priority is given to women between the ages of 21 and 35. Fluency in oral and written English is essential.

DEADLINE: The essay, recommendations and resume should be submitted together not later than 15 March 1986 to Simorgh so that we can forward applications by 30th March.

FINANCIAL AWARD: WILPF pays for the intern's travel from her home country to Geneva, from Geneva to New York, and from New York to her home country - accommodation, and a small stipend to cover living expenses. Health insurance and all other health related expenses are the intern's own responsibility.

SIMORGH'S MODE OF OPERATION, AREAS OF
ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED

Simorgh is a non-government, non-profit, educational/activist Collective. It is run by a group of five women but has a resource pool of various women development/ grass roots workers- women researchers and communication specialists. Simorgh works with and through an increasing network of women groups and organizations- other non-government organizations and like-minded individuals.

Since the womens' "issue" and the development of women is all encompassing, Simorgh operates at various levels within the two broad divisions discussed above, that is, the consciousness and education of women; and the material condition of women, although in many cases the activities in either overlap.

1. Simorgh has set up a Resource and Documentation Centre. The purpose of this is not only to have a centre where materials and documents on women are collected, but it is to serve as a library for researchers, women's organizations, individuals and agencies requiring such material.
2. Simorgh is to undertake, initiate and co-ordinate both short and especially long term research on the status and position of women in society. Quite apart from the fact that such information is needed by women activists in their struggles, and for project and programme formulation; it is necessary for women to understand the essence of their oppression, and to work out how this might be changed.
3. Simorgh will publish and disseminate educational and other materials; women's fiction and poetry; women's research studies; and any information or ideas that help to raise the women's "issue" and women's consciousness. This dissemination may be in the form of the written word, at understandable and accessible levels; or in visual or audio forms; and as far as possible in the languages understood by the women Simorgh is working with.
4. Simorgh will attempt to provide information to women's organizations, development workers and individuals about the situation of women and about each other so that links between women and/or groups are strengthened. Thus net-working and channeling of information are major areas of Simorgh's activities. At the same time Simorgh will attempt to bridge the gap between researchers, activists, development workers, women in the community, policy makers and funding agencies. This newsletter "Trinjan" is one activity which attempts to facilitate this. A journal is also planned at a future date.
5. Simorgh will also organize, plan, and conduct women's studies courses/workshops especially with/for women's organizations and development activists. In addition to this, attempts will be made to include the "issue" of women or the women's perspective into the regular school, college and university curricula.
6. In addition to this Simorgh offers advisory services to all interested in (a) socio-economic research methods; (b) action-oriented participatory research methods; (c) Programme/project formulation, implementation, evaluation and report and proposal writing - at every level, from large scale schemes to grass roots initiated projects; (d) Evolving management tools/methods of small scale project feasibilities for community or grass roots projects/personnel; (e) Developing training material to improve women's skills at different levels and for use in consciousness - raising and facilitating the training

of women activists/development workers if necessary and (f) Organizing and/or conducting seminars, workshops, training courses for the purposes of training women to initiate and manage their own projects/initiatives, as well as for other purposes relevant to women.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SO FAR AND PLANS FOR 1986

1. The Resource Centre has been established and the collection of documents/materials has started.
2. Information has been collected for the purposes of building links among all those involved in Women and Development, and for the dissemination of this information.
3. Simorgh has been involved in writing the country report for a 17 country research/action programme on "The Portrayal of Women in The Media" which is co-ordinated by the Pacific and Asian Women's Forum.
4. Simorgh has participated in several National Workshops including the Women and Development section of the Family Planning Workshop on "Training of Trainers" held in Sialkot in August 1985.
5. Simorgh is facilitating the training of several women (from different professions) to upgrade their skills and to incorporate the "woman perspective" in their work.
6. Simorgh has started the translation of several studies and other materials from English into Urdu.
7. Work has started to devise a short course on Women's studies as a module that could be used at various levels.
8. Simorgh has also exposed several women to the international dimensions of women's development. This has been done in the hope that an exposure to this dimension will facilitate a clarity on the womens' issue in Pakistan.

PLANS FOR 1986

While many of the above are ongoing the following activities are also planned for 1986:

1. Two more newsletters in addition to this.
2. An action programme, including a workshop with women working in the media, as a follow up to the study of "The Portrayal of women in the media".
3. The translation publication and dissemination of material/studies/fiction relevant to women.
4. Three national training workshops for policy makers - professional women - grass roots development workers; and women activists.
5. The production of low cost audio visual materials for consciousness raising.
6. The production of two training manuals.
7. The publication of two reports of work undertaken by Simorgh.
8. Facilitating the training of key women activists and development workers.

NOTE

If you are interested in receiving any of the above or would like to participate in any of the activities, please write to us indicating your interests and your activities. Suggestions on any of the above or for what else could be done in these fields will also be welcome.

