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THE ROLE OF WOMEN
IN INDUSTRIALIZATION IN EGYPT *

prepared by

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** General Organization for Industrialization (GOPI), Cairo

I n t r o d u c t i o n :

The main feature of advance in any country depends on the actual participation of all its members in productive work. Women presents half of the society and her contribution to development is basic for high productivity. The Egyptian women have fought with considerable success for the recognition of their rights. They have won political rights such as vote and the right to hold public office. It is worthwhile to say that many of them occupy high political and social positions.

E f f e c t o f E d u c a t i o n :

Women's contribution in a true worthwhile occupation can only be achieved by spreading of education among girls. Otherwise they will be restricted to simple jobs.

In Egypt primary education for girls have started as early as 1873.

In 1903 women were encouraged to attend University lectures as auditors.

In 1930 women began to graduate from the University and work as professionals;

In 1962 all stages of education including University was free of charge. This encouraged education for both men and women and actually increased the number of educated women. The number of girl applicants in the various educational stages increased from:

630,000 girl in 1953/54 to 1,230,000 girl in 1970/71.

The following table shows the % age of girls at various stages of education from 1920 - 1970:

Year	Prim.School	Secun.School	University
1920	24.5	0.85	-
1930	29	5.87	0.14
1940	35	6.29	4.5
1950	38	12.26	5.4
1960	38	21	15.95
1970	38	32	21.24

The following table shows the proportional distribution of females according to educational status from 1947 to 1966:

Educational Status	1947 %	1960 %	1966 %
Illiterate	88.2	83.9	78.9
Read & Write	10.7	12.5	17.4
Less than sec. certificate.	0.8	11	3.4
Sec.certifi- cate.	0.2	22	0.3
Colloge gra- duato.	0.1	0.3	0.3

This shows that the number of educated females still did not reach quantitatively or qualitatively the degree which will make them effectively influential.

Industrialization & Employment:

The increase in education was followed by modernization and industrialization. However industrialization in Egypt did not present a sudden revolution as that which occurred in England. It climbed up gradually and then speeded up fast enough in the fifties and sixties. By starting the Five Years Industrial Plan in 1957 women have taken an active role in industrialization. This has increased after the government's decision to accept the applications of all graduates to fill the vacant places created by the Five Years Plan.

The number of working women in the industrial field have increased by 166% from 1957 to 1967.

The following table shows the participation of males and females in different categories in 1969:

<u>Occupational Categories</u>	<u>Males %</u>	<u>Females %</u>
Tech.occupations	75.4	24.6
Managers	94.8	5.2
Clerks	88.7	11.3
Sales	90.3	9.7
Agriculture	93.9	6.1
Transport	99.3	0.7
Labourers	94.9	5.1
Service sector	81.3	18.7
Average	91.9	8.1

The following table shows the number of working women from 1957 - 1967 as labourers and as workers & professionals:

y e a r	No. of Female Labourer	No. of Female Office Workers & professionals
1957	20349	8909
1958	22224	9814
1959	22166	10222
1960	21617	10771
1961	26344	12943
1962	29011	14073
1963	31061	17169
1964	33743	19332
1965	35088	24280
1967	33865	29466

Working Regulations:

In the Egyptian working law there is no discrimination between man & woman law No. 10 for the year 1959 concerning government employment stipulates that the candidate for any position should be Egyptian, of good conduct and fulfilling all of requirements of age, fitness and adequacy. The law left the matter of choosing the applicants to the administrative agency.

However, there are some positions that does not suit her nature like chasing of criminals, guarding of frontiers, excavation and work involving explosives.

Rural Areas Industrialization:

Industrialization in rural areas in Egypt is still limited. The main feature of industrialization in these areas is the transformation of village products to finished or semifinished products. However these industries should be well defined by studies & research. Modernization of these industries should be taken into consideration. Training programmes should be taken into consideration to increase both productivity and quality. Marketing of such products should also be studied.

Women Organizations:

Women organizations in Egypt have started since 1992. They perform a wide variety of social & economic participation in society. There are about 4882 organizations supervised by a Union which co-ordinates their work. Women represents 76 % of the organization membership which are attached to the regional council. She also represents 83 % of the boards of directors. However 1299 of these groups are concentrated in the capital (Cairo).

Home & Maternity Problems:

The working woman now is more welcome as a wife, daughter, and sister. However she suffers from the problem of being an employee, a wife, mother, and housekeeper.

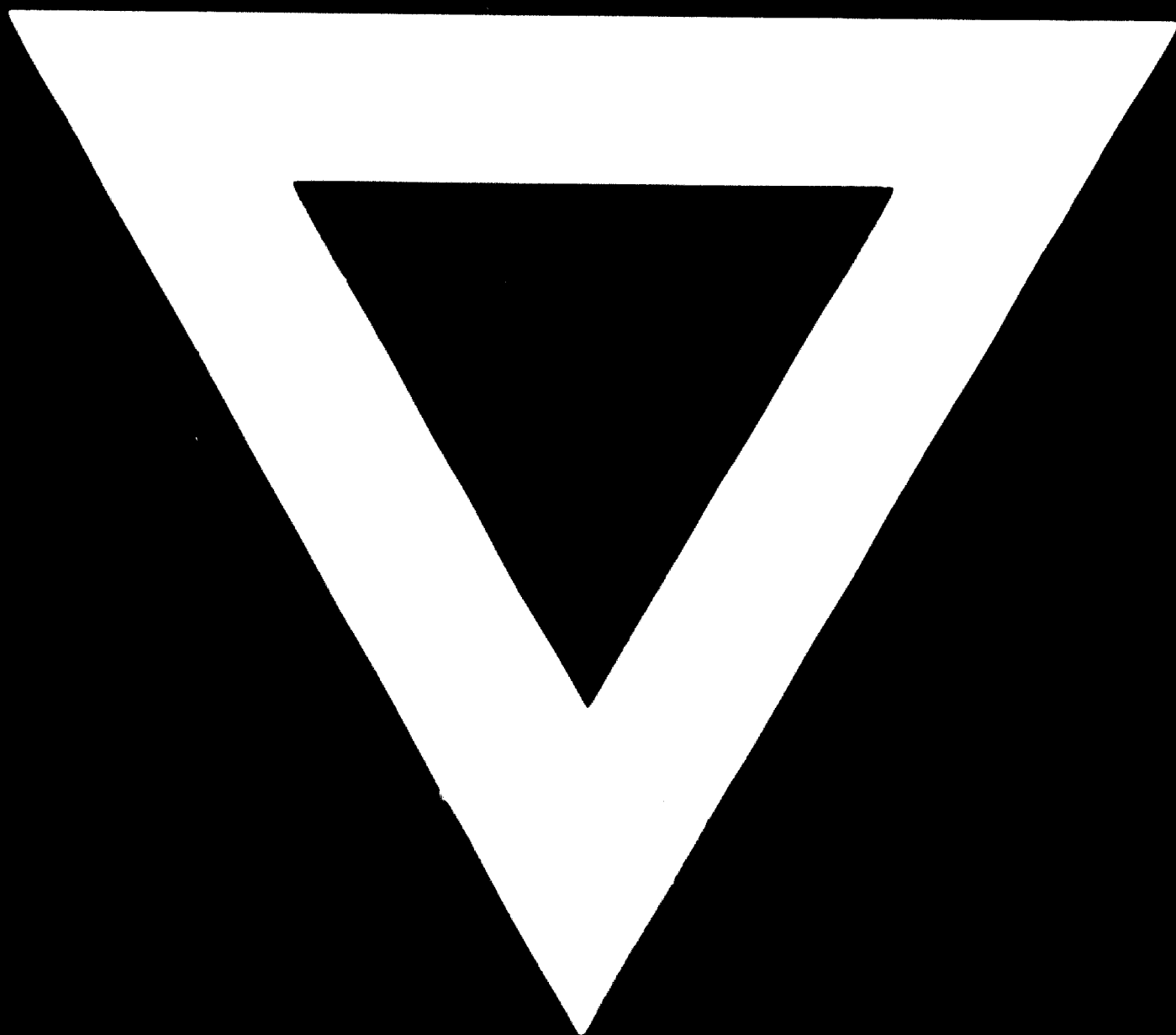
To harmonize between these roles much effort is required. Changes must be introduced in the way of living starting with the design of dwelling. Nurseries number have increased from 295 in 1952 to 1936 in 1970.

Solving these problems will encourage women to contribute more to economic development .

R e c o m m e n d a t i o n s :

1. Diminishing the percentage of illiteracy among females is the first step to be taken for their participation in development.
2. Development and training programmes should be directed to women to increase their abilities.
3. Redistributing women groups to include more groups in rural areas as well. Forming more women organisations.
4. Restudying the industrialization of rural areas on scientific basis. Introducing mechanism on a larger scale to agricultural field so that human sources may be directed to industrial fields.
5. Extending the services related to mother and child care and the other household facilities like setting up of more nurseries.

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