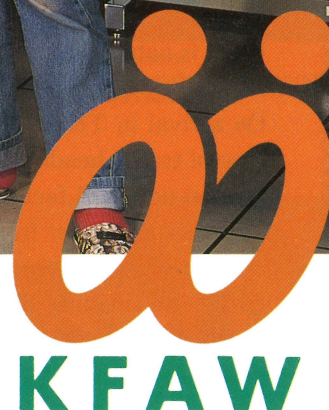


Asian Breeze



This is the editing room of Cable Station Kitakyushu established in October of 1989. This station, which has 27 channels covering a wide range of local, national and international news as well as movies, music and sports, services 4,000 households in Kitakyushu.

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WOMEN TODAY VOLUNTEERS IN ASIA



Playwright
Ms. Mieko Osanai

Although volunteer aid work exists to offer assistance to people in need, it provides us with a unique opportunity to learn and gain insight by confronting the realities of life faced by other people.

As member of a Japanese NGO, I participated in a volunteer project in Iran. Although Iran is located in the Middle East, Iranians are considered to be Persians, not Arabs. However, they share the same strict Islamic faith with many other Middle Easterners.

Women, foreigners included, are required to keep their bodies covered except for their faces and hands. Consequently, in the summer of 1991 when I stopped off in Teheran on my way to visit the Kurdistan refugee camp near the Iraqi border, it was impossible not to feel the sweltering heat.

I was told that head coverings do not have to be black, but in fact it was the most common color worn by married women; particularly, those who were middle aged. This group was also more likely to wear traditional chadors which cover them from the top of their heads to their ankles. The color of the chadors is not prescribed by law, but it is natural for the women to opt for the color favored by the establishment.

On arrival in Teheran I was surprised at the volume of traffic heading to the city from the airport. It is an accepted fact that Mexico City, Bangkok and Teheran suffer from the world's worst traffic congestion. In Teheran, the problem is compounded by an amazing display of reckless and high speed driving. In addition, frequent power cuts affecting street lighting contribute to the high incidence of traffic fatalities, many of whom are women. Imagine the vulnerability of someone

dressed like a black shadow in her chador stepping out from a dark corner. By the time she is noticed by the driver it is too late.

It is often said that women's status is low in the Middle East, but in their homes they shed their black garments showing their colorful dresses worn underneath. Also their husbands are gentle and helpful around the house.

In Iran, religion, entwined with politics, is a difficult matter. Consequently, we, as volunteers, struggled with how women could avoid being run over and killed by traffic on one hand, yet still maintain the dress code required by their religious faith on the other. We cheered when a female prime minister was elected in neighboring Turkey.

* * *

Japanese volunteers in Cambodia saw Cambodian refugees returning from Thai border camps in 1992. The buildings in Phnom Penh were drab and depressing and the clothes people wore, equally as colorless. In contrast to this, there were women conspicuously dressed in beautiful pink. It was obvious how they earned their living. There did not seem to be a particular feeling of guilt associated with the prostitution as the proceeds went to support the girl's families. Although we cannot apply our own moral standards to such a situation, the AIDS crisis highlights the potential tragedy faced by these women and their families.

At present, we are planning the construction of an elementary school in Cambodia. Although this will be only a small contribution to the educational needs of Cambodia, we have to start somewhere. Many of my colleagues will be spending this Christmas and New Year in the cheap hotels of Phnom Penh. The economic recession has badly affected the job prospects of women college graduates but I am impressed by students who are prepared to look beyond conventional employment and accept the sacrifices required by volunteer work abroad. I think they are truly wonderful.

We are a typical amateur volunteer group but through our modest efforts we hope to foster links among young people. And this is a starting point for our exchanges with Asian women.

KFAW FOUNDATION

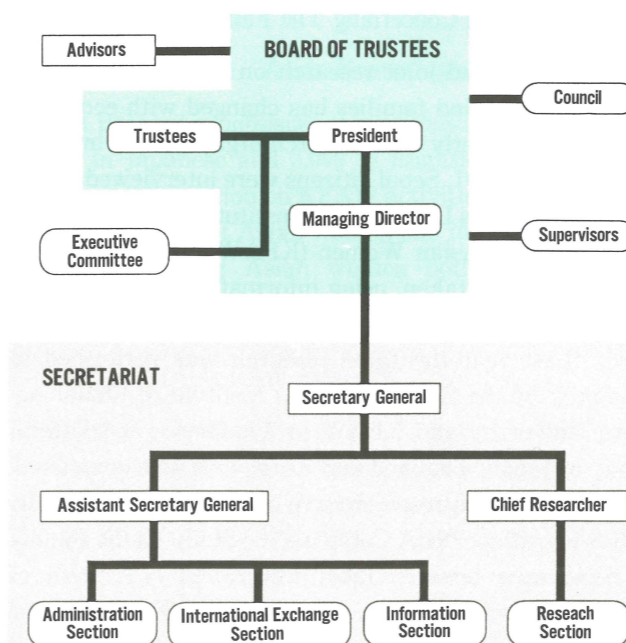
The development of a stable society in the 21st century will require respect for all individuals and the opportunity for their abilities to be realized. The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) strives for international solidarity among women, as valued members of society, participating fully in its development.



▲ General Meeting for KFAW Foundation

With in mind, KFAW was established in October, 1990 to improve Asian women's status. On October 1, 1993, the Forum officially became a foundation and Ms. Hisako Takahashi was reelected as the president of the KFAW. Many people from a variety of fields participated in the foundation's inaugural reception.

ORGANIZATION



▲ Board of Directors Meeting for KFAW Foundation

KFAW promotes research, exchange/training and information projects. It is also a member of the National Committee Japan for UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women).

(See detailed information KFAW's principle activities on pgs. 4 and 5)



▲ Ms. Hisako Takahashi
President of KFAW Foundation



▲ Mr. Koichi Sueyoshi, Mayor of Kitakyushu



▲ Ms. Hirono Ishida
Chairperson of the Donation Committee
for KFAW Foundation



▲ Reception for the newly established KFAW Foundation

FORUM ACTIVITY REPORTS

EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROJECTS

1. The Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women

The Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women is held annually as one of KFAW's major projects aimed at linking exchange and research activities. It provides an opportunity to discuss problems facing Asian women as well as advance women's status through mutual understanding and international exchange among Asian countries. Conferences to date have included: "Women in Decision Making", "Women in Environment and Development" and "Population and Our Earth's Future."



▲ International Symposium at the 2nd Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women

2. Asian Seminar

This open seminar has been held annually between June and August in order to broaden citizens' understanding of Asia and the problems faced by Asian women. Lecturers are invited from both home and overseas to discuss such topics as women's labor, educational development, the function of Japan's ODA and the destruction of tropical forests, etc.



▲ Participants at Asian Seminar



▲ Participants at this Seminar observe the bathing of a young child at a local health center in Kitakyushu

3. Seminar on Improvement of the Status of Women for Government Office

KFAW conducts the Seminar on Improvement of the Status of Women for Government Office under the auspices of JICA Kyushu International Centre. This seminar's central theme of "Women in Development" provides women's policy training to administrators from Asian, Pacific and African regions in an effort to improve the status of women. The training includes various subjects; such as, administrative planning of policies for women's affairs, public health care, mother and children's welfare, school education, the welfare of the disabled and the improvement of living standards in rural areas. It also aims to improve the ability of administrators handling women's issues, and provide a channel for the international exchange of ideas.

RESEARCH AND STUDY PROJECTS

1. Joint Research Concerning The Family Change in Asia

KFAW conducted joint research on how the consciousness of women and families has changed with economic development jointly with research organizations in Asian countries. In 1991, Seoul citizens were interviewed by the Korean Women's Development Institute and the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW). A comparative study was undertaken, using information from the same interview which had been conducted in Fukuoka prefecture. Last year the same research was performed in Bangkok by the Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University and KFAW in Thailand. A trilateral study of Japan, Thailand and Korea was then completed. The results of this research have been published under the following titles: "91 A Comparative Study on the Family Consciousness between Japan and Korea", "A Study of Family Consciousness in Contemporary Thailand" and "Research on the Family Change in Two Korean Rural Villages."

2. Project Study

The KFAW Executive Committee established the "Study Group for WID (Women in Development)", comprised of a research and a media group. The research group surveyed living conditions in urban areas of the Philippines, while the media group collected information for a video on the title of "Working Women in South Asia - The Case of the Philippines and Malaysia-."



▲ KFAW Executive Committee carry out a survey in the Philippines

3. Opinion Survey on Environmental Problems

With the worldwide growth in environmental problems, a research survey on lifestyles and the earth's environment was carried out in Kitakyushu (Japan), Beijing (China) and Seoul (Korea) by two Japanese mothers who were selected through public advertisement. This research investigated the level of awareness possessed by junior high school students and their mothers of environmental problems and protection. The results will be used to develop environmental education in each city.

INFORMATION PROJECTS

1. Publication of the "Asian Breeze" newsletter

"Asian Breeze" is published three times a year with 5,000 copies in Japanese and 3,000 in English. It contains a variety of information on KFAW activities; reports on the current situation of Asian women and introduces organizations supporting Asian women both at home and abroad.

2. Foreign Correspondent Program

The foreign correspondent program, now in its third year, involves residents of Asian countries submitting reports 4 times a year on daily life and the conditions faced by women in their countries. The correspondents are recruited in February and if selected, serve a term of one year. Initially there were 6 correspondents from 6 countries. However, this year there are 16 correspondents from 12 countries and now the program has extended to



countries about which there was previously little information. The reports are published in "Asian Breeze" and the KFAW's Foreign Correspondents' Journal.

3. The Asian Women Series Publication

As Asia is a region of diverse races, religions, politics and economics, it is therefore even more important to have objective data in order to develop mutual understanding and facilitate international cooperation. The "Asian Women Series" introduces social conditions facing women, supported by statistical information and articles from each country's "national machinery" for women's affairs. The first volume looked at "Chinese Women" from various aspects; such as, marriage, education, labor and national women's policies. The second volume introduces "Sri Lankan Women" and should be published next March.

4. Book Collection

Books and information concerning women's issues in Japan and overseas have been collected and catalogued by our computer to be used as reference material. Included are such topics as Asian culture, politics, economics and religion. Currently there are 3,000 Japanese and 700 overseas publications registered.

5. Women's Information Matrix

The word "Matrix" is a mathematical term for a network that stretches in all directions like a net. The Matrix project using our foreign correspondents as key persons hopes to link Kitakyushu citizens and their Asian neighbors to promote exchanges as well as deepen our mutual understanding. The Matrix's theme is "Women in Education." Matrix members include teachers, PTA representatives, the media and researchers who have interviewed foreign correspondents, families, government and NGO officials from Asian countries about "Women in Education." This year members videotaped the lives of young girls in China and Sri Lanka to be used as material for elementary schools.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTER-REGIONAL PROJECTS

Seminars on "Women in Development"

KFAW conducted seminars on "Women in Development" in Sakai, Hiroshima and Kitakyushu, in July 1993 with the hope of promoting inter-regional cooperation. The Seminars aimed at strengthening women's networks to solve their problems. Dr. Barbara Knudson of Minnesota University, invited as a principal lecturer, is a specialist on "Women in Development" and a former member of the preparation committee for the "World Conference of UN Decade for Women" in Nairobi.

The Kitakyushu seminar's theme was "The Development of Asian Countries and Women" and 150 people attended. The following is a summary of the address given at that event:



Compared to other regions of the world, countries in Asia have many differing levels of economic development. The people in neighboring Asian countries are confronting their difficulties, and Japanese women have a responsibility to assist them in their development.

I want to make a strong assertion—the poor nations of the world will not in the foreseeable future be able to achieve a satisfactory level of economic, social and sustainable development unless all nations, rich and poor, donor and recipient, pay systematic and ongoing attention to the roles, the views and the contributions of women based on gender analysis and then adjust policies and practices accordingly. This suggests that the "women and development" idea has as its ultimate aim not only the advancement of women but, even more importantly, the improvement of the quality of life of all people, male and female, young and old, of all races and nationalities, everywhere on the globe. The advancement of women is a necessity for equitable and sustainable development, not only just a goal to help women but also as a means towards achieving a larger end.

In the context of development, the major problems confronting the world are as follows:

- 1) slowing the explosive population growth
- 2) feeding the hungry people of the world

- 3) preventing environmental degradation which threatens us all
- 4) lessening or ending the threat of war

Let's take a look at these problems from the point of gender. Historically we (both donor and recipient nations) have attempted to slow population growth by supplying information and equipment for contraception, a strategy which obviously has not worked so very well in the poorer parts of the world.

Why not? No one bothered to think about the demand for children on the part of women or about why women continued to have the number of children they do. Taking gender into account it is quite easy to see that as long as women work so hard; for example, 14 to 16 hours a day in subsistence agriculture in Africa, they will want and produce children to help share the burden of labor. In nations with no social security system, people must have children to provide assistance in old age. The answer to this problem is to invest more heavily in the education of girls and women. Better educated women have fewer children; better educated mothers have healthier children with fewer of them dying in infancy and early childhood; and better educated women make larger economic contributions to family and nations.

Let us turn next to the topic of feeding the world's hungry people. It is well documented that women agricultural workers raise at least one-half of all the world's food. But the problem is that they raise this food to feed the world against incredible barriers raised against their efficient productivity. Women are systematically denied access to a wide range of needed input to be more effective farmers. They are denied more than information; they are also denied access to credit to purchase seeds, fertilizer, agricultural equipment, etc. The important issues—explosive population growth, food shortages and environmental problems are deeply intertwined. However, the problem becomes clearer through gender analysis.

What should women do to solve the problems? One strategy is to continue to learn more about the status of women, past, present and future through the wealth of new knowledge which is created and published every day. Next, it is necessary to organize ourselves more and more effectively to act collectively to set the world on a different course. With our enhanced knowledge and our organizational strength, we must act. We must find ways to gain political power, we must make our voices heard, we must bring that different perspective of women to bear on the great necessities of our times: population stability, food security, preservation of the global environment and lasting universal peace.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS

Theme : Women in Home Education

Women's Education in India

Ms. Malavika Karlekar <India>

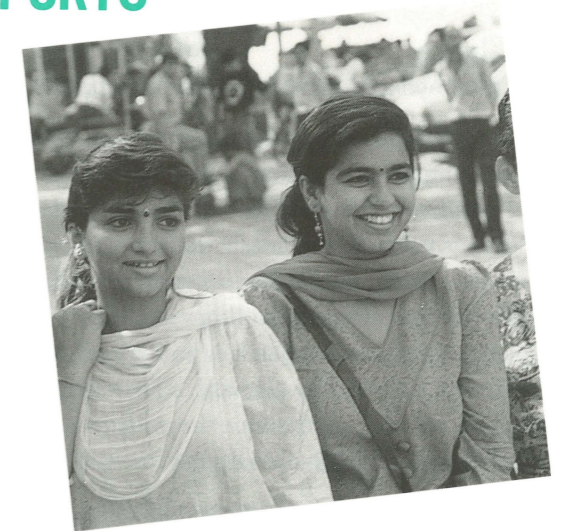
Educational figures in India are depressed because of the slow progress in educating girls and women. Irrespective of socio-economic background, the ideal of femininity and feminine roles usually conflict with those of modern education. For their survival and unity, families build on the nurturing and docile aspects of womanliness, which often run counter to a value system which stresses a certain degree of independence. While middle class families allow girls access to certain kinds of courses, the large majority disapprove of removing a girl from the family's labor force to go to school. The sexual division of labor at home allots a large number of tasks to women and to girls.

While the survival of poor families is heavily dependent on the labor of children and of women, the returns of education, which normally means a few years of schooling are low. Being in school means forgoing the opportunity to earn or help in the home.

Even for the girls who are able to make it to school, their continued education depends on whether they marry or not after the age of 15; easy and safe access to the institution; single sex schools; women teachers and a curriculum sensitive to their needs. Scholarships, midday meals and free books are possible incentives. Facilities; such as, physical structures and equipment, must inspire confidence. There is enough evidence to indicate that a substantial percentage of schools in India are lacking in these respects.

Of the lucky few who are able to make it to university (approximately 40 girls to 100 boys), most are concentrated in the liberal arts (43.2 %) and education (52.4 %) sectors while only six girls for every hundred boys go to engineering college. This trend is related to social and familial expectations of what a girl's basic role in life is to be. For example, it is usually assumed that she is to be a good wife and devoted mother, who may work as a teacher or clerk. Consequently, there seems to be little point in investing time and energy on studies of science and related areas. Instead investment of scarce family resources is usually spent on the technical education of a boy.

There are indications that social and familial perceptions are slowly changing. There is growing recognition that the idea of women as victims should be replaced by the notion of women's empowerment. This dynamic concept envisages the building of a positive self-image, self-confidence, critical awareness, the ability to work, as well as make decisions in a group.



Ms. Zhou Jie <China>

In 1992, the first Protection of Women's Rights and Interests was passed in China. Since then, a nationwide campaign to study this new law started. Training programs and courses as well as books, radio and TV programs on this law have flourished. Meanwhile, some lawyers have organized "a counseling service" on this law's enforcement as well as to answer various kinds of questions on women's legal rights.

As a result, more women are learning to resort to legal means instead of swallowing unfair treatment. For example, when a power station in Heilongjiang Province asked the female employees to pay double in fundraising for the factory's new living quarters, these women refused. Instead of turning to their husbands, relatives or some sympathetic factory leaders they decided to call for help under the new law's Article 23 which states women shall be equal with men in the allotment of housing and the enjoyment of welfare benefits. They sent a telegram with 118 women's names appealing to the All-China Women's Federation. The case was finally resolved favorably for them.

Although the new law stipulates that women enjoy equal rights with men, much unfairness still exists in women's employment, education, welfare and health care. Some work institutions; for instance, refuse to recruit female university graduates. Others, even if they do, give priority to men. Work units that turn away females fear that most women will take maternity leave. Some work institutions allot residential apartments only to male employees or they slap extra conditions on female applicants.

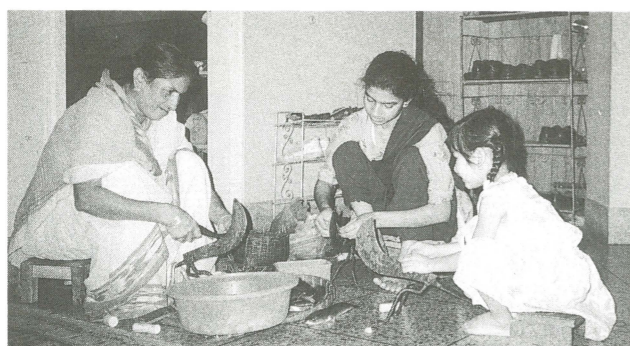
Unfair treatment is a result of centuries of sexual discrimination which remains a headache for Chinese women. Eliminating age-old prejudice is never easy work. Thus, in order to educate everyone to obey the law, we still have a long way to go.

Shiuly's Choice

Ms. Ayako Kunimoto (Ayesha) <Bangladesh>

Shiuly is 17 years old. She completed 10 years of basic education in Bangladesh, gaining a first division secondary school certificate, equivalent to a high school degree in Japan. Many young Bangladesh women marry after this level of education, but Shiuly, in spite of marriage offers, has decided to continue with her studies.

Also Bangladesh girls are taught how to look after their families and raise children by this age. They help their mothers in the kitchen from the time they are very small. No domestic chore is thought unsuitable for small girls.



Shiuly not only performs kitchen duties, but must also look after her young brothers and sisters. She prepares their breakfast and sends them to school before she is able to leave for school herself. Without being asked, she cleans her elder and younger brothers' room once a week. Besides doing her own homework in the evening, she also helps her brothers and sisters with theirs. If a guest visits the house, Shiuly assists her mother in preparing a special meal, regardless of Shiuly's own schedule. Her own private time begins at 11 p.m. after she has put her youngest brother to bed.

Despite all her responsibilities, Shiuly never complains. She realizes that she is already of a marriageable age and could have children of her own by now like some of her married classmates. Her elder sister married just before completing her basic education. It was by watching her elder sister and friends that Shiuly began to question the role she seemed destined for. "I wonder if I could be happy marrying early, being a wife and mother. Is it possible to care for children and perform a wife's duties while going to school at the same time?" She has convinced her mother to let her study to become a teacher. In this Islamic country, it is not easy for women to gain employment outside the home. Shiuly believes that training as a teacher will help her raise her own children, irrespective of whether or not she finds a job.

I congratulate Shiuly on not allowing herself to be trapped by social trends as well as her mother for supporting her daughter's pursuit of happiness.

Education is Wealth

Ms. Estrella M. Maniquis <Philippines>

As a grade school student in my rural hometown of Natividad, Pangasinan Province, Philippines, I had to walk more than two kilometers to school, public conveyances being scarce and unaffordable for most village children.

Like my classmates, I walked barefoot on the dirt shoulder of the asphalt road. In the rainy season when the road turned into a shallow river, we all splashed merrily home, our brown bodies wrapped in plastic raincoats and our notebooks clutched close to our chests.

If doing lessons and homework wasn't fun, a lot of things associated with school were—playing on the expansive school grounds, getting a small allowance which we spent on candies, eating a rice-and-viand lunch wrapped in banana leaf as well as making (and sometimes losing) friends.

We learned to read, write and do numbers with simple learning devices and the teacher's endless patience. We shared desks as well as textbooks which were collected at the end of the day and kept in school. Computers and video films would have been wonders beyond our imagination.

Deprived as we were, the majority of the class did make it to the end of the school year, and on to the next. Although poor, Filipino parents consider education a form of wealth and would do their best to enable their children to have as much of it as possible.

Occasionally, however, someone would indeed drop out of school. For example, girls sometimes would be absent because they had to look after a younger sibling when the mother had to sell produce in the market or do farm work during the planting and harvesting seasons. If the absences became too frequent, it was very likely the girl would lose interest in learning; especially, if she was afraid of not being able to catch up with the rest of the class. I also knew a few children in my village who did not go to school at all. Their families were so poor that they could only eat if they earned money by cutting grass to sell as horses' feed; gathering edible snails in the streams or engaging in other such side activities.

That was in the 1950s and 1960s. Official statistics now show that from 1970 to 1990, literacy rates among Filipinos have greatly improved, also reflecting higher rates of school attendance. In 1970 the literacy rates were 75.9% for the female population and 76.9% of the male population. These rates had become 93.34% and 93.7% respectively, in 1990.

In addition, more children of both sexes are attending school. And there is a slight increase for both genders concerning college degree.

SAARC Promotes Women's Education

Ms. Kamala I. Wickremasinghe <Sri Lanka>

A Workshop on Girls and Women's Education in SAARC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) was held in Colombo from July 1, 1993 to June 3, 1993. The focus of the workshop was on education's constraints for girls and women as well as the mapping out of a concerted plan of action. All SAARC countries participated in the workshop whose underlying premise was the education of women and girls as a major policy concern, a human right and as a development imperative. Education is not only necessary and in the best interests of girl children and women but also for the development of the country. The workshop also noted that the development of a nation requires full participation of its human resources including women in all activities. Education, it emphasized, is a vehicle for upward social mobility for women; especially, in Asia where women have played a secondary role in society.

Although many issues were identified and many remedies were discussed, I have only listed the more significant areas:

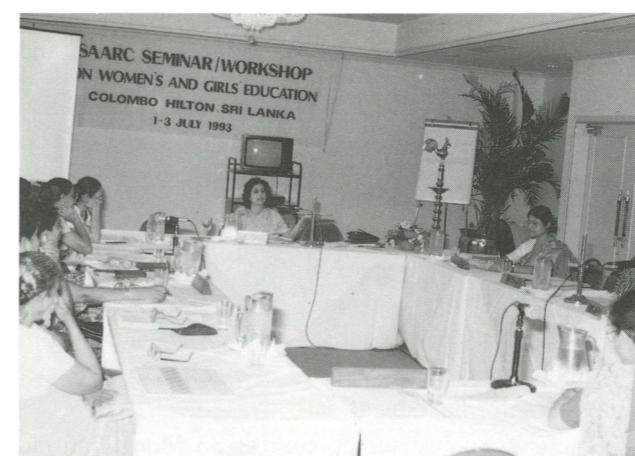
Literacy Conduct a total literacy campaign with the government and NGO participation, focusing on women's equality and empowerment.

Data Analyze data according to gender on all aspects of women and education.

Facilities Provide facilities like hostels and separate toilets for female teachers to encourage girls being sent to schools; relax regulations regarding enrollment.

Non-Formal Education Provide this in addition to the formal model, non-formal and alternative models.

Teachers Train all teachers in multi-grade teaching as well as how to enhance their skills and knowledge. Provide them with incentives; such as, rewards and recognition for those who enroll the most village children in proportion to an area's population.



▲ SAARC Seminar/ Workshop

Against All Odds

Mr. Khalid Hyder <Pakistan>

Pakistan is a developing country, and unfortunately has very limited resources to devote towards women's development. While the uplifting of women continues to occupy a high place in the Pakistan Government's priorities, the paucity of funds and the strain of an exploding population are severely limiting the government's efforts to improve the lot of Pakistan women; especially in the field of education. With an estimated literacy rate of only 35% (of which women comprise only 22.3%), Pakistan is still far behind other nations in the region; especially, in women's literacy.

Although the government in its new education policy (announced in December 1992 for the next decade) has placed a special emphasis on women's education, the allocation of funds for this is pitifully inadequate. In the 1993-94 budget; for example, an insignificant amount—Rs. 1.50 or about 10yen per woman has been allocated for women's development.

Women in Pakistan, comprising nearly 48% of the nation's population, mostly live in rural areas. They are largely illiterate, usually marry early, and bear a large number of children. Although in most parts of the world women outnumber and outlive their male counterparts, this is not true in Pakistan. In addition, Pakistani women have no control over their lives and are viewed as dependents. The majority are also denied the opportunity to acquire even a basic education. This problem is further compounded by the fact that co-education is not viewed favorably in most parts of the country; especially, in the rural areas, and that boys' schools are normally given preference over girls' schools.

Even under these adverse circumstances, many rural women are determined to defy all odds and provide at least a basic education to their children. In many villages, women are pooling their resources to organize makeshift schools. A woman may lend her house, comprised of one mud-walled room, for two hours. A broken window will be painted and used as a blackboard, while the children sit on discarded jute bags, trying to acquire the basics of education. Other mothers may even send their daughters to schools 3 to 4 miles away, dressed as boys, defying the criminal elements that may be present enroute.

The Pakistani woman of the 1990's is determined to improve her position in society, and there has been a distinct change in the general attitude of women in Pakistan especially over the last decade. With the efforts of dedicated Pakistani women's groups, it will be possible to transform women from passive victims in a male-dominated society to active participants in improving the status of women in Pakistan.

WORLD INFORMATION — Mongolia —

LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE :
LIFESTYLES IN MONGOLIA**Mr. Keiji Kushiya**

Associate Professor of Niigata University

Mongolia conjures up two images in the minds of Japanese. One is of nomads, moving with their herds of horses and sheep on the vast plains. The other is of people suffering from harsh economic and political difficulties. On my first visit to Mongolia in August, specifically Ulan Bator and the Gobi Desert, I found that both views reflect the realities of present-day Mongolia.

Mongolia is 4 times the size of Japan in area, while its population is only 2,180,000. Livestock outnumber people by ten to one and half of the population are engaged in stock farming. The altitude is high, with a temperature lower than Japan and very dry air. In Southern Mongolia, the Gobi Desert stretches for 2,500 kilometers east to west and 1,500 kilometers north to south. It took us about one and a half hours to get there from Ulan Bator in a small propeller driven aircraft. It was totally different from how I imagined a desert to be. We saw conical tents known as "gher" dotted about on a vast grassy plain. The clear air gives the illusion that the neighboring gher are close by, although actually, it would take over an hour to walk to the next one.

People have adapted themselves to the harsh environment. They move from place to place with their livestock, which consists mainly of cows, horses, camels, sheep and goats. In summer, they move to find new grassland and water for the animals; while in winter it is to seek shelter from the icy wind. For easy mobility, the gher are designed for simple assembly and disassembly and people do not possess much furniture.

The livestock are the most important property of the nomads. Their meat and fur are used to support daily life; fermented horse milk is used for drinking and animal's droppings are used for fuel. The day's work begins at sunrise when the cattle are taken to the rich grasslands depending on the weather conditions. Even small children are skilled horse riders and capable of managing the cattle.

With recent moves towards democracy, government ownership of livestock has been transferred to the people. This is welcomed by the nomads, encouraging them to work harder. It would seem that the people of Mongolia are trying more than ever to improve their lives in harmony with nature. Perhaps this way of life is something we have forgotten in Japan.



▲ Tourists on the plains of Mongolia

MONGOLIAN WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Ms. G. Dashaa

President of Central Council of Mongolian Women's Federation

The Mongolians have been experiencing political, economic and social changes in the last three years which have impacted on their educational system. For example, during the last two years, about 100 thousand children dropped out of schools, causing an increase in the number of illiterate girls and women.

Basic education levels between urban and rural women are very different. Women over 18 years of age with 10 years of education are 110 in rural areas and 228 in urban areas per 1,000 people respectively and women with primary education are 368 in rural areas and 220 in the urban area per 1,000 people respectively. The majority of the dropouts are from stockbreeders families, 70% of whom dropped out in their first 6 years of secondary schools.

The Mongolian written language was ignored and lost for many years. Now it is becoming important to revive our written language. Consequently, the Mongolian Government decided to put all the official business and documents in Mongolian as of 1994.

As members of the Mongolian Women's Federation's Central Council, we would like to improve the educational levels of Mongolian women by:

- 1) Making it more reflective of Mongolian ideas and customs.
- 2) Organizing home education training for housewives and unemployed women.
- 3) Establishing better quality training; in particular, for stock breeders' families through correspondence courses.
- 4) Teaching women and girls about family planning, child care, home economics and management skills, the traditions and customs of Mongolian people, etc. through informal education.
- 5) Organizing home training courses on Mongolian old scripts.

GLOBAL EYES —World Women—

CHILEAN WORKING WOMEN

Ms. Inés Olivares G.

Social Worker

In Chile, women form 50.6 % of the population. In the last twenty years, women who are economically active have rapidly increased. Today in Chile, one worker in three is a woman. Women are not prohibited from performing any kind of job and 21% of Chilean homes have a woman as the head of the family.

The main occupations of Chilean women are : professionals 14.4%; managers 1.9%; office workers 16.0%; sales women 15.5%; domestic workers 33.1% and unskilled workers 12.7%.

The work that women do is mainly centered in the city. Chilean laws protect working women, giving them medical benefits as well as their salaries. Chilean laws also protect mothers and provide child care.

The following are some of the benefits for which Chilean women are eligible:

- 1) Pregnant women have the right to 42 days of payed leave before childbirth and 84 days afterwards.
- 2) After the baby is born, the mother has the right to child care while she is working. If the child is born handicapped, she may take care of the child at home for one year, keeping all of her salary and legal benefits.
- 3) Working women's children until the age of 21 years old are entitled to a monthly stipend.
- 4) If a working woman loses her job, she has the right to receive a stipend up to twelve months.
- 5) When she retires at the age of 60, she is also entitled to a monthly pension until her death.

Very much like all working women worldwide, the Chilean working women must finish her household chores as well as take care of her husband and her children.



▲ Head nurse conducts practical training session at a local hospital in Chile

THE FORUM WINDOW

TO BEIJING!

We were finally able to conduct our joint research project in Beijing this year as a follow up to our research on changing Asian families.

This success was actually not due to luck but largely to the advice and encouragement given to me by respected senior colleagues. My knowledge of Chinese family studies had been limited only to "The Family Institution," written by Fei Xiaotang, a well known family research scholar. I had been desperately seeking additional information about contemporary family studies in China. However, as finding a Chinese partner for this joint research was a difficult proposition, my research plan began to fall steadily behind schedule. Not knowing what to do, I asked Mr. Kazuo Aoi, President of the Japan-Chinese Sociology Society for suggestions. He immediately advised me to consult Mr. Kiyomi Morioka, President of the Japan Family Sociology Society which had been involved in an academic exchange program with the Chinese Sociology Institute for the last two years. I had heard about their research, but was embarrassed to intervene with my own unrelated research agenda. With Mr. Aoi encouraging me, I finally telephoned Mr. Morioka.

"By all means, I strongly recommend that you do it," he replied. "Our current project in China has finished so I'm sure that they will welcome the opportunity to work with KFAW." When I heard this, I was overjoyed. He introduced me to Mr. Wang Wei, a young Chinese sociologist fluent in Japanese to support us. Suddenly our stalled research program was moving. In his dedicated fashion, Mr. Morioka soon wrote to Mr. Ma Yucai of the Chinese Sociology Institute's Marriage and Family Research Section. The spirit of Japanese "Gakuen" (relationships through learning together) and "Gakuon" (a feeling of academic gratitude) warm-ed my heart.

Probably for the first time in China, we could apply the random sampling method for this kind of research. There is now a tangible enthusiasm for such study emanating from China, almost as if to make up for the vacuum left by the Cultural Revolution. At that time it was said that social science was unnecessary in China, as the ideal socialist society had already been successfully established.

Masami ShinozakiChief Researcher
Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women

INFORMATION

● COUNTRY REPORT MEETING

The 3rd Seminar on Improvement of the Status of Women for Government Officer will be held by the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women from February 10 to March 4, 1994, under the auspices of the JICA Kyushu International Centre. Participants will come from 8 different countries including the regions of Asia, the Pacific, and Africa. These participants will also make presentations on women's conditions in their respective countries at the Country Report Meeting segment of the seminar. This meeting will also include a Q&A session.

- 1) Date : February 22, 1994(Tue.)
- 2) Time : 10:00 - 15:00
- 3) Place : International Village Center
1-1 Hirano 1-chome, Yahatahigashi-ku, Kitakyushu City
- 4) Capacity : 50people
- 5) Languages to be used : Consecutive interpretation in English and Japanese
- 6) Charge : Free

For further information, please contact the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women.

EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

Words are like camera lenses through which we sometimes capture things differently. Depending on the skills of the photographer, the reality can be more or less beautiful. Asian Breeze by using as many lenses as possible brings its readers accurate and interesting information bridging our hopes, fears and joys.

● KITAKYUSHU WOMEN'S PLAN

Kitakyushu City initiated in March of 1990 a ten-year plan (1990-2000) entitled "Kitakyushu Women's Plan" to promote men and women's equal participation in building a better society. After almost completing the first half of this comprehensive plan, the city will review it, making it more responsive to citizens' needs over the next five years.

● "Asian Breeze" SUBSCRIBERS' DRIVE

The "Asian Breeze" is published every four months. It is distributed free at the Public Relations Section of the City Hall of Kitakyushu and Citizens' Consultation Room in every ward. If you would like us to send you a copy, please contact us. Our telephone No.: 093-551-1220



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