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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF
IRAQI WOMEN**

Secretariat of Studies and Researches



**THE WORKING PROGRAM
OF THE IRAQI REPUBLIC
TO IMPROVE
THE WOMAN'S STATUS.**

**The national papers
presented to
the international congress for
united nation women's contract
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MR. SADDAM HUSSEIN, HEAD OF THE REVOLUTION'S COMMAND COUNCIL,
PRESIDENT OF THE IRAQI REPUBLIC

The Working Program of the Iraqi Republic for the

Elimination of Illiteracy Among Women.

1- The Background of the Project:

- 1-1 For a long time education opportunities in Iraq have been very limited, and in most cases they were available only to men and not to women. With the gradual progress achieved by the country in many fields including the field of education, the opportunities available to both sexes increased but only to a limited extent, which led to the continuous increase in the number of illiterates from both sexes especially in the villages, which formed a great hindrance against the economic and social progress in the country.
- 1-2 Some attempts were made before the 17th of July 1968 revolution in the field of elimination of illiteracy through opening centers for educating the illiterates by the ministry of education and other state institutions and by the unions and public organizations in the cities and countries. But these attempts achieved only limited results.
- 1-3 These attempts increased after the 17th of July 1968 revolution. The state **issued** regulations encouraging the education of the citizens, and it considered education as a prerequisite to getting jobs in its different institutions. The armed forces, particularly the army, played an important role in this field. But the achievements in with regard to women, were not satisfying as illiteracy remained widely spread among women.
- 1-4 Studies have proved that in case the traditional forms continue the percentage of illiteracy among women in Iraq will be about 57% in the year 2000.
- 1-5 The political report issued by the eighth national congress of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, which is the ruling party in Iraq, has determined for the years 1974-1979 the aim of eliminating alphabetical and civilizational illiteracy as considered a hindrance to all development efforts. The congress has also stated that the achievement of this aim demands firstly; the application of compulsory education for children between 7-11 and at the same time eliminating illiteracy, secondly, declaring a total national campaign led by the party, and joined by all public

organizations and formal institutions, providing this campaign with all the material and scientific potentialities, giving it a studied and limited time.

- 1-6 The project of the total national campaign for compulsory elimination of illiteracy has included every citizen between the age of 15-45 who is ignorant of reading and writing and did not reach the civilizational standard. According to the results of the general population census of the year 1977 the number of women included in the campaign was 1,535,940 between the age of 15-45 which represents 66% of the whole number of women in this age. The project has also aimed at annihilating civilizational illiteracy by preparing special programs.

2- The Aims of the Project:

- 2-1 The emancipation of 1535940 women between the age of 15-45 of illiteracy in a period of 36 months at 4 stages.
- 2-2 Teaching the women included in the campaign the skills of reading, writing and calculating and developing these skills, accustoming them to careful reading and attentive listening and expression. Also developing and supporting their ability of thinking, informing them of the importance of science and education to get rid of all kinds of backwardness, and strengthening their confidence in themselves and their ability of education and progress.
- 2-3 Informing the educated women of the aims of the party and revolution and its achievements and ambitions, also informing them of the importance of national unity, developing the spirit of pride in their homeland and loyalty to their country. And explaining the importance and aims of the public and vocational organizations, evoking their national and social consciousness and strengthening their combative spirit against the challenges facing the Arab nation. It has also aimed at informing them of the importance of co-operation among the peoples of the world in supporting the national Pan Arab aims of Iraq.
- 2-4 Informing the students of their domestic duties and the importance of right domestic linking and the position of the family in the organization of society, as well as developing their co-operation and collective work spirit and cultivating new values and forms of behaviour which correspond to the nature of the new social society.

- 2-5 Informing the students about the resources of their country and the importance of these resources on both the local and international levels. It has aimed also at the construction of the positive view towards work, developing their sense of responsibility, inciting them to increase and improve the production, informing and training them in certain skills to improve their performance of work, as well as teaching them the importance of reasonable consumption, the benefits of saving and its role in the development of economy, to profit the individual and the society.
- 2-6 Improving the health conditions of the students and their families by informing them about the importance of cleaning houses, prophylaxis from diseases, and good healthy food. Also telling them the ways to take care of the personal, domestic and social safety and the necessity of referring to health institutions in the case of illness abandoning superstitions.

3- The Preparatory Steps of the Project:

- 3-1 The political report of the eighth national congress of Al-Ba'ath Party has issued a law defining the years 1974-1979 as the stage of eliminating illiteracy through a national campaign led by the party. The Baghdad conference for the compulsory elimination of illiteracy was held between 5-8 May 1976. Many studies and researches concerning the elimination of illiteracy were given there providing the right background for the achievement of this aim.
- 3-2 A general population census was made in 17-10-1977. It has counted the number of illiterates between the age of 15-45 who are covered by the project perfectly determining their locations.
- 3-3 The application of compulsory education in elementary schools began in the school year 1978-1979 for both sexes and it has stopped the annual increase in the number of illiterates.
- 3-4 In 3-5-1978 a statement was issued by the revolutionary leadership council appointing the secretary of the national leadership of Al-Ba'ath Party the president, as the director of the campaign
- 3-5 In 22-5-1978 the law of the general national campaign to eliminate illiteracy number 92 for the year 1978 was issued. It

a period of 36 months which is joined by students at 4 times. The principle of priority is considered in their entry with regard to the importance of educating the citizens according to their vocational positions corresponding with the national development plans in the country. It has been decided according to the plan that the program should be for two stages, the first is the preliminary and it takes 7 months, the second is the supplementary stage and takes 7 months also.

- 3-10 The high counsel of the general national campaign for the compulsory elimination of illiteracy issued a statement declaring the 1st of December 1978, as the starting date of the campaign.

4- The Executive Stages of the Project:

- 1-4 The plans included registering women at 4 intervals, so that the first phase included 25% of them, to begin in 1-12-1978 and the last phase will be in 1-9-1980. The preliminary stage to end in 31-11-1981. But the response of women to registration in the centers led to a basic change in the plan because the percentage of registered women by 1-12-1978 was more than double the expected number for the time and the percentage of comprehension amounted to 98,49% after 7 months.
- 4-2 As a result to this response it was declared during the first year of the campaign that illiteracy has been eliminated in 12 governorates, out of 18 in Iraq. Meanwhile, the percentage of comprehension exceeded what was actually decided for it.
- 4-3 The high counsel of the total national campaign was planning for the after-success stage and it organized with the arab system for illiteracy elimination and education of the adults, a follow up program in the framework of the continuous education during the period 3-4 December 1978 which was attended by representatives of Arab and international organizations beside Iraqi intellectuals and educators. The counsel discussed the suggested alternatives for the continuity of the educational process after the preliminary and supplementary stages in illiteracy elimination making sure that those who have finished these two stages would not retreat to illiteracy again.
- 4-4 The form of the public schools was settled as a means to the continuity of education for the graduates of the illiteracy elimination centers, transferring them to a level corresponding to

has obligated every citizen to register in the illiteracy elimination centers, imposing legal punishments on the retardate and absentees. The law also included items regarding capability of reading and writing at the end of the campaign as a condition to enjoying the advantages given by the government to all citizens. According to this law there have been formed a high counsel which had representatives of all government institutions and public organizations. Local counsels in all administrative units, local committees in all villages and committees in laboratories, factories and state institutions were also formed. The counsel was given the responsibility of eliminating illiteracy and giving all necessary authorities for putting the general policy, supervising, and providing all necessities such as centers, teachers, curriculums, books... etc.

- 3-6 During the period 8-10 August 1979 a special informational academic seminar was held. It has put a plan for the information of the dimensions and aims of the campaign and including the information systems to execute the plan. Then, a high committee for information was formed in the high counsel having representatives of different informational systems, formal circles, and public organizations, also central informational committees were formed in all administrative units all over the country.

- 3-7 During 17-19 October 1978 the conference of the vocational and public organizations was held in order to determine the role of each organization in the general national campaign. Another committee for following up and arrangement was formed consisting of representatives of the aforementioned organizations to follow the execution of the central plan concerning the role of the vocational and public organizations.

- 3-8 The executive system of the high counsel of the total national campaign for the compulsory elimination of illiteracy started shortly after its formation for direct preparation of the campaign. It has trained teachers and officials participating in the campaign qualifying them to give lectures in the illiteracy elimination centers and in numbers enough for the actual needs. It has also prepared and printed enough books for the two stages of study in the illiteracy elimination centers and equipped these centers with audio-visual means of explanation.

- 3-9 a plan for executing the campaign has been put aiming at eliminating the illiteracy of all citizens affected by the law during

the same standard of elementary schools to improve them scientifically and culturally. The Revolutionary Leadership Counsel issued the statement number 496 in 19-4-1979 declaring the establishment of public schools to register the graduates of the supplementary stage who are above the age of 10. It declared that registration in these schools is compulsory.

- 4-5 Special instructions were issued concerning the working hours in public schools. The students were divided into two groups; the first begins in 1-3-1980 to graduate in 31-3-1982, this group includes all graduates of the supplementary stage before 1-3-1980. The second group begins in 1-9-1980 graduating in 15-11-1982 and includes all graduates of the supplementary stage before 1-9-1980. These instructions said that in case the two parents are comprised by the public schools system, one of them joins the school and the other studies through the special programs and joins the public schools later on.

5- The Characteristics of the Project:

- 5-1 The project was applied in all districts of the country; cities and villages, vallies and deserts.
- 5-2 As a result to that, there have been certain educational innovations such as:
- a. A program concerning the wondering nomads in the desert, a volunteer accompanied them with a tent and all the prerequisites of education such as books, blackboard and means of explanation and he taught students from both sexes.
 - b. In the villages which doesn't have enough schools for the students in the campaign. Illiteracy elimination centers were built out of ample materials like trees and palms.
 - c. Many citizens offered their houses or parts of them to be illiteracy elimination centers in case there are no suitable places.
 - d. A teacher was appointed in each Iraqi commercial shop to teach the students included by the campaign.
 - e. Even the drivers whose work demands continous change of

place were educated by means of recorded tapes, they were given the books and were followed up in certain dates.

- 5-3 The human cadre was provided by qualified teachers in the public schools to teach the illiteracy elimination centers after their daily work in addition to a great number of volunteers who participated in teaching in the centers, they were officials, journalists and university students.
- 5-4 The project was financed by the national development plan. The total national campaign for the compulsory illiteracy elimination was given the sum of 66,112,981 dinars (which is equivalent to 220,000,000\$) liable to increase as the project develops and including public schools as a form of continuous education.

6- The Participation of Women in the Project:

- 6-1 Women participated in this project through the General Union of Iraqi Women in all the conferences, seminars and counsels which preceded or accompanied the project and its execution, namely the following:
 - a. The academic informational seminar discussing the campaign held in August 1978.
 - b. The Baghdad conference for the compulsory illiteracy elimination held in May 1978.
 - c. The first conference of public organizations concerning the role of the organizations in the campaign was held in October 1978..
 - d. The follow-up counsel relating to education was held in December 1978.
- 6-2 Women took part on the scale of executing, following, and correction the established plans and modifying them through the participation of the General Union of Iraqi Women in the membership of the High Counsel which was formed in all administrative units and local counsels, also in the high informational committee of the campaign and in the Central informational commilters in the governorates and their sub-committees.

6-3 In the field of formal participation, women taught in the illiteracy elimination centers for women. The number of women who took part in the campaign was 52694. They worked as lecturers, managers, assistants or educational supervisors. They had to move all over the country sometimes using horses and donkeys to reach the illiteracy elimination centers and perform their duties in the campaign. The role played by women can be explained by the following figures:

- The number of teachers who participated in the campaign amounted to 48533 by 1-7-1979.
- The number of managers and assistants was 3770.
- The number of educational supervisors was 391.
- The number of female students was 31 to each female teacher.

6-4 The General Union of Iraqi Women who participated in giving information about the aims and dimensions of this campaign in addition to its other participations on the formal scale, as there is among its central formations a secretariat specializing in illiteracy elimination and education of the adults, which defines its activities with the other public and formal authorities. It also plans for the Union's activity in the field of illiteracy elimination. In this framework the General Union of Iraqi Women held two academic seminars, the first defining its role in the campaign and the second defining its role in the achievement of the form of public schools. Iraqi and Arab experts joined in both seminars enriching the paper prepared by the Union which contained the framework of its working plans in the field of illiteracy elimination.

6-5 The General Union of Iraqi women gave priority to its role in illiteracy elimination and its activities in this field from 1-5-1978 to 31-12-1979 were:

- It executed 30675 programs in information and following-up.
- The execution of these activities took 69865 hours.
- The number of women who benefited from these activities was 2323398 women.

6-6 Women also took part through their work in the executive system of the High counsel of the general national campaign for compulsory illiteracy elimination in the researches, studies, and the accounting and administrative works, as well as by being a representative of some of the public and vocational organizations, such as the general union of Iraqi youth, in the committees formed by the high counsel for the planning, executing, and following up of the campaign. Women also participated as journalists and artists, and workers in the different information centers pertaining to the campaign, explaining its aims and dimensions and encouraging the citizens to respond to it.

7- The Evaluation of the Project:

- 7-1 A political decision prepared for the project as was manifested in the political report of the eighth national congress of Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party on illiteracy and its liability to elimination only by a general national campaign. The secretary of the Leadership of Al Ba'ath Party, the president had ordered such a campaign and this gave it a strong boost to achieve its objectives.
- 7-2 The campaign was preceded by great preparations such as training lecturers, preparing the illiteracy elimination centers, printing the curricula and providing the means of explanation. All this was provided on a large scope exceeding the actual needs of the first group, which helped in enrollment of greater numbers than what was planned for.
- 7-3 There was a great deal of consistency between the plans of the campaign and those of the state in the other fields. The law of the campaign was consistent with regulations providing for compulsory free education, so this helped to evade the major causes of illiteracy and made it **possible** to define the numbers and locations of illiterates.
- 7-4 Planning for the campaign was flexible. This helped to meet the popular flow and to enrol bigger numbers than those actually envisaged for in the plan, a matter which bolstered the continuity of the political decision to shorten the duration of the campaign and to start the experience of public schools at an early stage.
- 7-5 The confrontation of illiteracy led to the innovation of new forms of action to eliminate illiteracy such as that of pioneers working in remote desert areas among the nomads, records for transport

workers, kindergartens in places with women's classes in illiteracy elimination centers to enable mothers to continue their classes in the same vicinity with their kids, as well as using television to instruct teachers and students and the publishing by the supreme counsel of the campaign, of a lot of publications related to the campaign.

- 7-6 The project achieved a positive outcome for women regarding alleviating their sense of responsibility and integrating them in the development process. The curriculum for the illiteracy elimination centers and the public schools had taken into consideration the realization of the objectives mentioned in part 3 of this report, by including political, social, economic and health instructions designed to increase the awareness of women and boost their self-confidence. Those curricula were endorsed only after the consulting the public organizations, among which are the Union of Women in order to make sure their context is consistent with the objectives of those organizations, and that they do not imply sex discrimination.
- 7-7 The campaign produced indirect results in favor of women in areas where sexes almost do not mix. In some regions male educators were functioning in women's illiteracy elimination centers. In other regions - particularly desert areas- there were mixed illiteracy elimination centers for both sexes.

8- The Results of the Project:

- 8-1 The project achieved considerable success regarding the enrollment of big numbers of those women, for whom it was designated. In this respect this was achieved throughout 1980:
- The number of female students in the illiteracy elimination centers was 1458467 students.
 - The number of illiteracy elimination centers for women was 16439.
- 8-2 Chances were wide open for those who finished the supplementary stage to continue their education in public schools or through follow-up programs. This guarantees the continuity of education for women so that they would not go back to the state of illiteracy.

- 8-3 Since the national development plan (1976-1982) had stressed the participation of women in the development process, liberating this number of women from their illiteracy is bound to help, especially in making them aware of the importance of labor and contributing to the process of building socialism. This should get a huge number of them to work in various economic fields and make possible to provide for part of the demand of manpower, especially that plan had provided for an increase in the total labor force from 2,9m. workers in 1976 to 3,5m workers in 1980.
- 8-4 The project proved that the existence of the will and the consideration of the political, social and economic dimensions of illiteracy is conducive to find revolutionary solutions of the problem. Iraq was able to eliminate women illiteracy in no more than 14 months, while the problem seemed unsolvable before that, and while a 3 year period to solve it was considered a great risk.
- 8-5 Iraq had learned from the experience of those countries which solved the problem and from the experience of international and Arab organizations and had added a new dimension to the international experience. This has provided Iraq with desire and need to offer the outcome of such an experience to others to benefit from, as it had benefited from the experience of its antecedents.

**The Working Program of the Iraqi Republic For
Raising the Ratio of Females In all Stages of
Education.**

1 – Introduction:

- 1-1 The temporary constitution of the Iraqi Republic guaranteed the equal right of education for every citizen from both sexes. The revolution has given education opportunities to all citizens, but it due to the existence of many social conditions and inherited values and traditions that the response of women to education was generally less than that of men, a matter which consequently led to delaying the process of emancipating women, from backwardness, not to participate fully in building the society.
- 1-2 The Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, which is the ruling party in Iraq, regarded cultural, social and economic backwardness in Iraq as one of the most dangerous impediments against contemporary Arab awakening. So, the political report of the eighth national congress of the Party issued in 1974, which was legislated as a law including the working program of the Iraqi republic during 1974–1979, asserted that providing education on a large scale to women is an important task and considered it as one of the main aims which should be achieved during the 5 year plan within the context of efforts aiming at liberating women through liberating the whole society.
- 1-3 To achieve the aim of educating women, the political report included two basic programs, that asserted their achievements during the 5 year plan 1974–1979. These two programs are:-
 - a. The application of compulsory education in the elementary stage in all districts of Iraq and later on, the application of compulsory education in the succeeding stage (or stages) withing a gradual implementation of the plan.
 - b. The execution of a general national campaign for the elimination of illiteracy led by the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, and joined by public organizations, armed forces and government institutions, supplied by all national and public efforts.
- 1-4 The efforts were made during the last 5 years resulted in the application of compulsory education in the school year 1978–79,

and the execution of the general national campaign so that illiteracy was eliminated among women up to the age of 45. We have made a separate national paper on the campaign which is devoted to speaking about education and all its stages.

2- The Aims of the Government Working Program in the Field of Women's Education:

- 2-1 The application of compulsory education for females between 6-10 years to balance between both sexes in the field of education and to make sure that there is equality in registering children in elementary schools for both sexes.
- 2-2 Encouraging women's education up to the stages succeeding the elementary stage, and directing them to vocational education in the preparatory stage to compensate for the shortage in the medium cadres that are needed in the development plans and programs, especially in the specialization branches that were formerly restricted to men.
- 2-3 Directing women in the university educational stage to choose practical and technical specializations that were restricted to men, aiming at the participation of women after graduation in the development process in its different sectors.
- 2-4 Encouraging women to maintain higher studies, to acquire scientific and technical specializations qualifying them to attain leading positions, both in the productive and service institutions, or qualifying to work in executive positions such as the membership of the administrative authorities of unions and public and vocational organizations, or the membership of social counsels and committees.
- 2-5 Preparing new scholastic curricula, starting from kindergarten curricula up to the highest stages in university education, connected with the principles of the Party and the national, social, and democratic revolution, according to their objectives such as the political, economical, social and cultural objectives. This provides women with the opportunities to attain genuine culture that enhances their self-confidence and encourages them to share more effectively in the development process. This has also confirmed that the scholastic curricula do not include subjects implying discrimination between the two sexes.

3- The Executive Stages of the Project:

- 3-1 The law of free education started execution in 1975 and included not only the exemption of study fees, but also providing materials, books and all educational requirements that helped in attracting children from all economic levels, especially the poor classes, who almost always refuse to register their daughters in schools because of the expenses.
- 3-2 The project of school feeding was executed since 1975 and it provided for the supply of food for children in all elementary schools in the country side, and the schools of adolescents, kindergartens, and schools in the poor districts of the cities. This formed another encouragement for the poor and rural families to register their kids in schools. The percentage of children having a full daily meal in their schools was 54% of the whole number of elementary school children in Iraq during the school year 1978-79.
- 3-3 A total survey was made for all citizens of Iraq in 1977 and it helped to define perfectly the number and location of children.
- 3-4 The law of compulsory education number 118 issued in 1976, obliged the parents to register their children between the age of 6-10 in elementary schools starting from the school year 1979/80.
- 3-5 The Party Organization and concerned authorities were assigned to contact each family proved by the census to be having children at this age to make sure that they were registered.
- 3-6 In 1977-78, the Ministry of Education organized an experimental program to enrol children between the age of 10-14 who are not comprised by the law of compulsory education, and the law of compulsory elimination of illiteracy (which was applied to all citizens between the age of 15-45) by establishing special schools for them called adolescent schools. In 1978-79 the program was enlarged to absorb all children at this age.
- 3-7 Efforts were made to enlarge vocational schools and develop their programs, as well as increasing the potentialities for technical and engineering specializations and encouraging females to join such schools.

3-8 Money was secured and human capacities were determined to achieve these aims which were given super priority in the program of the government. The sum of money designated for education reached one million dollars.

4- The Government Program in the Field of Education:-

4-1 Females in kindergartens: there has been an increase in the ratio of females in kindergartens, which indicated the existence of equal opportunities, for in 1979/80 the percentage of females of all registered children was 48%.

The following table shows the achievements in this field, it also points to the probability of reaching a state of semi-balance in the number of children from both sexes.

School Year	Number of Females	Percentage
1970 / 1971	5955	44%
1974 / 1975	16587	47%
1979 / 1980	33565	48%

It must be indicated here that females are given the responsibility of managing and teaching in all kindergartens (100%) (i. e. all teachers in kindergartens are women).

4-2 On the level of elementary education: after the application of compulsory education in the elementary education stage which started in 1978/79 for all children between the age of 6-10 there was an evident increase in the number of female students in the elementary stage, and also an increase in their ratio as compared to the total number of pupils in a way, that reveals a semi-equality between both sexes. The percentage of females became 45% (not 50% because of the remaining effect of the pre-compulsory stage).

The following is a comparison of the 3 stages:

School Year	Number of Females	Percentage
1970 / 1971	318. 524	29%
1974 / 1975	493. 408	32%
1979 / 1980	1165. 856	45/

4-3 As to the level of guaranteeing education for females the program of compulsory education helped in providing means to guarantee the education of females from childhood, as the percentage of females enrolled in schools for the year 1978/79 reached 98% of the total number of females at the age of 6.

4-4 As to the level of secondary education: there was a great increase in the number of female students in secondary schools, although the ratio of increase was less than that achieved in other stages of education because secondary education is preceded by at least 6 years of elementary education, which was difficult to achieve before the revolution.

The following table shows the development in the secondary educational stage.

School Year	Number of Females	Percentage
1970 / 1971	88595	29%
1974 / 1975	131879	29%
1979 / 1980	278485	31%

4-5 As to the level of vocational education: the number of females in vocational schools and their percentage to the whole number of students increased, and women entered certain fields that were joined only by men.

The following schedule shows the development of the number and ratios of females in vocational education:

School Year	Number of Females	Percentage
1970 / 1971	2235	23%
1974 / 1975	5225	25%
1979 / 1980	15140	28%

The percentage of females to the total number in some branches during 1979/1980 was:

Agronomical education	13 %
Industrial education	10 %
Commercial education	77 %

4-6 Teachers training institutes: the great development in elementary education demanded a great number of teachers to fill the shortage in the educational cadres, this implied paying more attention and care to teachers training institutes. Consequently, the number of female students in these institutes increased greatly to satisfy the need in elementary schools for teachers.

The following schedule shows this development:

School Year	Number of Females	Percentage
1969/1970	1704	47 %
1974/1975	4360	51 %
1979/1980	13957	68 %

It must be indicated that the number of females in the educational community has increased in all educational stages from (30211) in 1974/1975 to (54374) in 1979/80. The percentage of females to the total has increased from 38% to 44% during the same period. Which is a good result approaching balance between both sexes in the educational community.

4-7 Generally, the number of females in different stages of education increased according to the following percentage:

Stage of education	1968/69	1973/74	1977/78
Kindergarten	100	177%	426%
Elementary	100	142%	256%
Secondary	100	136%	229%

4-8 In the higher education: there was a great rise in the ratios of females joining engineering, agronomy, medicine and other branches which were formerly restricted to men, as follows are the ratios of women:

Branch	Percentage of Females to Males	
	1970/71	1979/80
Medicine	28%	44%
Engineering	7%	22%
Agronomy and veterinary	5%	20%
Abstract sciences	30%	39%
Management and economics	17%	38%

- 4-9 The number and percentage of females in the technical university in 1979/80 shows clearly that females responsiveness to technical specializations is not limited to official branches which were previously considered to be restricted to women, instead they joined the branches which demanded real field work, especially that the employment system in Iraq stipulates the central distribution of graduates according to the needs of the development plans.

Branch	The percentage of Females
	1979/1980
Electrical Engineering	25%
Control and System Engineering	42%
Civil Engineering	18%
Production and Metal Eng.	37%
Mechanical Engineering	15%
Chemical Engineering	64%
Architecture Engineering	23%

5- Results:

- 5-1 Iraq manages to achieve equality in education for females at the age of compulsory education because of the application of compulsory education.
- 5-2 Iraq managed to eliminate the source of illiteracy by applying three integrating programs at the same time; the compulsory education for children between 6-10, the education of adolescents between 10-14 and the elimination of illiteracy for all citizens between the ages 15-45.

- 5-3 The subjects which are being taught in all stages have been checked by specialized committees joined by the General Union of Iraqi Women to make sure that they do not include items indicating discrimination against woman.
- 5-4 Females were successfully directed to vocational education and to branches which were traditionally restricted to men such as agronomy and industrial education.
- 5-5 Iraq manages, though an underdeveloped country, to raise the percentage of females in higher education to a ratio approximate to that in the developed countries (31% in Iraq, 34% in developed countries.)
- 5-6 Iraq guaranteed the participation of women in all engineering and agronomical specializations in a way reflecting the success of the informational efforts regarding the necessity of the participation of women in all fields of education.
- 5-7 Iraq was capable of providing an indirect means to build the child properly in matters of health and diet. The figures of the school feeding program show that 54% of females in elementary schools are participating in such a program and are getting ideal meals. These are the females in the poor and rural areas. It wasn't possible without this program to provide them with this service.

6- The Way of Generalizing the Results:

- 6-1 The Program succeeded from many reasons:
 - a. It has dealt with a common problem «education» not a feminine problem although woman mostly benefited by the program.
 - b. It has dealt with all aspects of the problem at the same time, and it applied many programs each dealing with one aspect; adolescents, adults, providing free education, free books, schools and teachers, applying a program of school feeding, revision of school curricula.
 - c. It provided all necessities for its success; the money designated for education in 1977 reached the sum of one billion dollars.
 - d. All authorities cooperated to make the program succeed in consistent team work. The planning committees determined

the volume of the requirements and the numbers and locations of students, the executive systems, mass media means and public organizations.

6-2 The program proved that the existence of the political will is capable of solving the problems which seemed unresolved as to the education in Iraq, where the problems of eliminating illiteracy and executing compulsory education seemed impossible.

6-3 Each program in each country has its particulars, but cooperation is necessary. Iraq benefited from the experience offered by international organizations. Now, Iraq has an experience enabling it to help other countries and guiding them at solve their similar problems.

Schedule - 1 -

The development of the number of females in all stages of education in Iraq during 1970/71 - 1979/80.

Stage	1970/71	1974/75	1979/80
Kindergarten	59551	16587	33565
Elementary	318524	493408	116856
Secondary	88595	131789	278485
Vocational educ.	2235	5225	15140
Teachers' training institutes	1704	4360	13957
Total	417013	651459	1507003

Schedule - 2 -

The development of the number and percentage of females in the higher education in Iraq during 1970/71 - 1979/80.

Branch	Number of Females		Percentage of Females	
	1970/71	1979/80	1970/71	1979/80
Medicine	939	2809	28%	44%
Engineering	198	3418	7%	22%
Agronomy and Veterinary	87	1461	5%	20%
Abstract Sciences	2046	2792	30%	39%
Education	---	4452	---	36%
Management & Economics	868	5441	17%	38%
Literature	2816	2918	31%	45%
Social Sciences	1820	980	22%	14%
Institutes	353	4376	19%	28%
Total	9127	28647	23%	31%

Schedule - 3 -

The development of the percentage of females in all stages of education in Iraq during 1970/71 - 1979/80.

Stage	Sex	1970/71	1974/75	1979/80
Kindergarten	Males	56	53	52
	Females	44	47	48
	Total	100	100	100
Elementary	Males	71	68	55
	Females	29	32	45
	Total	100	100	100
Secondary	Males	71	71	69
	Females	29	29	31
	Total	100	100	100
Vocational	Males	77	75	72
	Females	23	25	28
	Total	100	100	100
Teachers	Males	53	49	32
Training	Females	47	51	68
institutes	Total	100	100	100
Total	Males	71	68	59
	Females	29	32	41
	Total	100	100	100

The Working Program of the Republic Of Iraq
to Increase
Women's Participation in Economical Activities

1- Background

- 1-1 The Iraqi woman suffered from the lack of available work opportunities due to social, economical and political reasons, particularly the prevalence of the feudal system in the countryside before the 14th of July 1958 Revolution. The fact that Iraq was tied up to the capitalist market led to the dissipation of its wealth on consumption projects, a shortage of jobs which were restricted to males. Thus, the percentage of women to the total labor force of the country in the late fifties was not more than 20%.
- 1-2 Employment of women was restricted to certain fields of services, such as teaching in girls, schools, and medicine in order to specialize in gynecology and infant diseases. As a result of the prevalence of antiquated social values, women were deprived from the opportunity to enter many fields of work which were pursued by men.
- 1-3 Though the economic plans introduced in the country had led to the increase of income and the increase of work opportunities, they were limited and were not accompanied by a qualitative development in the laws which protect women and provide them with work. The role of working women was still restricted to the lower levels of production and far away from positions of influence, supervision and management.
- 1-4 Figures of employment among peasant women were very high (more than 50%). Women had to start work in their childhood. But they were not paid for their work and did not enjoy any rights while they had to shoulder every responsibility. The work-power of women was exploited without that leading to developing them or improving their social and economical position.
- 1-5 This situation persisted until the beginning of the seventies. The percentage of women in the labor force in the economic sectors was not more than 5% in 1970. While the percentage of women working in agriculture was 50% of the total labor force, but

without pay, while the percentage of paid female workers was not more than 5%.

- 1-6 The arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, the leading party in Iraq, since its establishment has been interested in the position of women and was conscious of the relationship between the backwardness of women and the backwardness of the society as a whole. It considered the social liberation of women as an essential condition for the liberation of the society. Thus, the levels of women's participation in the economic activity and her position in it was among the major interests of the Party, as an indication to the extent of social development taking place in the country, not merely as economic indication only.
- 1-7 Starting from the end of 1973, the party undertook, a detailed universal revision of the real conditions of women and their position. This revision helped to evaluate what had been achieved in order to improve equality with men. It also helped to define indications for work during the period of 1974-1979.
- 1-8 The results of this analysis were included in the political report of the 8th National conference of the party. The report was considered obligatory by the force of law and included the objectives to be achieved during the period of 1974-1979.

2- The Program of the State of Iraq to Improve the position of Women During 1974-1979:

- 2-1 According to the political report of the 8th National conference of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, the program of action of the state of Iraq stressed that the problem of the cultural, social and economic backwardness of the Arab Women is one of the most serious obstructions to the modern Arab renaissance. This backwardness inflicts damage on several essential matters such as the upbringing of infants, building the creative powers of the Arabs. Moreover, the stagnation of women in her present cultural, social and economical conditions, and the countinuity of her inequality to man in real theoritical, scientific and legal terms, does not help to introduce real universal radical changes in the Arab society aiming to achieve Unity, Freedom and Socialism. Thus, the program considered the role of women as a question of public policy and not a feminine question. It defined

the starting points for action to include the following points:

- a. The necessity that all sectors should participate in action to achieve the targets of the stage.
- b. It is essential not to separate the issue of women's participation from the process of developing the various sectors.
- c. It is essential to take the particulars of women's position into consideration.

2-2 The program defined the priorities of action for the period 1974-79 to include the achievement of equality in the four following fields as the corner stones for the liberation of Women:-

- a. Equal opportunity in education.
- b. Increasing the ratio of their participation in work and providing for vocational training for women.
- c. To achieve equality before the law.
- d. To fight reactionary ideas which look at women in a narrow way (merely as producer of children)

2-3 The program made it obligatory to all State institutions to work for these objectives through the following methods:-

- a. To adopt clear programs, to destroy the traditions which consider certain jobs closed for women, a way to implement the provisions of (2-2 d-above) and a way to secure the creation of the social opinion which allows women to work in any field they desire which they are qualified for.
- b. To draft clear policies toward raising the ratio of employing women in all positions and levels.

3- Models of executive programs to break the bonds of social traditions which permit women to work only in certain positions. the government's decision to obligate all insitutions to organize programs including women in the positions which were socially considered closed to them led to a movement spreading allover society. As follows examples such programs:

3-1 Women's Farm: although women has traditionally worked in farming, and performed more functions than men, but the

backward social conditions deprived them of the right of being paid for their work and of the opportunities to get influential leading positions, and of learning modern methods of farming. These backward social conditions were prevailing to the extent that if one man works with a great number of women, he would board all effective activities and leaving women to do the exutive jobs which permit their exploitation. For these reasons, a cooperative farm for women was established all its workers being only women, providing them with the atmosphere to practise all activities. The farm was established on a piece of land owned by the government which lies in one the districts belonging to the capital Baghdad. It has begun on an area of about 300 dunoms (a dunom is 1000square meters) ran by 15 female farmers belonging of 1976 the area of the farm reached 831 dunoms ran by 45 female farmers. The organizational structure of the farm consisted of a general society which elects a managing counsel of 7 women;

a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and 3 members. The members of the general society participated in farming and in the supervision of the work of the farm.

The farm is considered as an intergrative economical unit divided into groups, each ran by a president managing its affairs and keeping continuous contact with the president of the farm.

There is a working cadre of women in the field of self-management and agricultural engineering. The project includes units for raising cows and chicken, producing honey and a modern village consisting of 40 houses for the working members of the farm. The farmers have been given educational opportunities to eliminate their illiteracy. The farm also provided social, educational and health services and there is a guidance center for the peasant women attached to the farm. The members of the farm are being taught serving, embroidery and rural handwork in addition to giving courses to the farmers, training them in modern farming and usage of machines.

The farm owns the means of production such as the farming machines. The expericence proved that the simple farmer woman is capable of doing all modern farming works, and also of managing and planning for the production in the farm, it assured

that woman has both talent and ability to perform an equal role to that of the man in a developed agricultural society. The farm achieved the social influence which was needed by its establishments, for it provided the concrete evidence to prove that the farmer woman is capable of performing all activities related to farm work. This reflected in the increase of women's participation in the mixed farming cooperatives at all levels and with high effectiveness. The farm also participated in achieving important social changes among the families of the farmer women, because the husbands of the female farmers are in most cases workers or officials and the salaries of the female farmers and services available for them helped in creating the right mature relationships within their families. Women participated in all stages of the project which is ready to become mixed; the participation included the bearing by the General Union of Iraqi Women of complete responsibility in establishing the farm and transporting it to the formal authority (The Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Cultivation) in addition to the continuous follow-up of the work in the farm, which gives a model of a program in which women take all the responsibility of establishing it and working in it.

- 3-2 Women working in Gas Stations: in spite of the rise in the numbers and percentages of women in the geological and engineering specializations and the acceptance of society of the idea of women working in this field, this acceptance remained to jobs having high scientific qualification, and Iraq suffered from the existence of a social opinion which do not allow women to work in the simple jobs which demanded continuous contact with the public such as the work in gas stations. For these reasons, the Ministry of Oil started in Feb. 1976 executing many courses training women to work in gas stations. In the light of results of these courses, 85 women workers were distributed on gas stations with daily working hours from 6:30 a.m. to 14:30 p.m. the program, simple as it is, achieved great social influence as revealed in the newspapers reviews and the informational interest in the program, in addition to the interest of the citizens who came to see and accept with admiration the young women who worked in this field, a matter which was not possible

without the insistence on executing the program. This was done through the close cooperation between the Union of Iraqi Women and the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Oil. The Union nominated elements from the Union to be the pioneering group. Those elements considered the changing of antiquated social traditions as part of their basic role in society. Qualification courses were given to the workers to protect them from probable resistance and annoyances, also there was an informational program to prepare the citizens to accept the program. This helped, with the general atmosphere, to open the way for women to enter other fields closed to them.

- 3-3 Women conductors in public buses: One of the other programs which imposed itself on Iraqi citizens to create the conviction of the necessity of allowing women to enter all fields of work is the program executed by the Ministry of Transportation to employ women in field which was forbidden for them until 1978 under the pretext of protecting them from direct contact with the citizens. The work as a conductress in the public means of transportation (The General Establishment for Passengers Transportation in Baghdad) The society accepted the idea of woman working as an official in this institution or driving a private car, but not working as a conductress in a public bus, spending her day in the streets of the city, dealing with different kinds of citizens. For this reason the management of the Establishment found that its role in making the social change included in the program of the state lies, in allowing women in these positions within a program which included 53 girls in a special training course for working as conductresses in ticket-selling kiosks or inside the buses. Attention was paid to closing the elements who are able to realizing that their participation in the program helps in changing the social opinion more than merely finding a job which can be found in any other field. A wide informational campaign accompanied the program, in its early stages, to guarantee the achievement of its main objective, to help to change the social opinion as revealed in the press interviews which found out that the Iraqi citizen accepted the work of the Iraqi women and was proud of it.

3-4 Women in courts of Justice: The women's cause in Iraq suffered from a problem common in most countries, that is man's monopoly of the executive positions in the Justice organizations, for in spite of the rise in the ratios of women joining the colleges of law and politics, this did not lead to allowing women to occupy the post of judgess or to the other important posts in the courts. This situation has its social roots which are caused by the consideration of women as a second class citizen deprived of the right of getting high positions in the society. It also has certain effects with regard to the extent of attention paid by the laws to the special needs of woman, and the capability of judges to give their judgements without prejudice. The Iraqi Ministry of Justice found that one of the important means to do its duty in changing the social opinion of women's work, in addition to modifying the laws to achieve equality and to give women all their rights, is the preparation of a program to employ women in these positions; the committees for preparing the projects of law, Justice positions, general attornies, justice investigators, legal registerars and official programs led to qualifying a number of women to occupy these important positions, in addition to defining the laws which include discrimination between men, and women, or neglect providing guarantees for women's work. The program also))led to men's realization of their monopoly of these posts and that this makes them, even unconsciously to ignore the feminine point of view. This situation created a high degree of consciousness of women's rights.

3-5 Women as a traffic guide: another position which was for many years, forbidden to women, was to stand in the street directing the traffic i.e. working as a symbol of authority. This was due to the opinion of women as a weak secondary citizen that can't be a symbol of authority, and the need for protecting them from fields of work which demand contact with citizens of all kinds on the pretext of protecting their morals or doubting their ability of doing such a job. For this reason, the Ministry of Interior found that the way to change this opinion is to make a program for traffic girls putting them in the middle of the street, in a symbolic way challenging the old conceptions, under complete

supervision by the State expressing the confidence in the ability of women. Thus, the Ministry organized a special program to qualify 24 girls joining the first course for being traffic girls. At the end of 1974, for the first time, the Iraqi citizen saw an Iraqi girl in military uniform, organizing the Traffic in Baghdad. The girls were chosen in cooperation with the Union of Iraqi Women which guaranteed the choice of human elements having the personality that can achieve the objective of the program, and this was a refusal to the common citizen's convictions who did not accept, until then, such an action. In addition to the complete support and the directed information which succeeded in achieving surprising results, as no resistance happened instead, it was a motive for pride.

3-6 Women in the Armed Forces: The Armed Forces is considered the last and most important position to be normally opened to women's work, since it reveals their physical features which, in turn, reveals their biological nature; that is why Iraq also opened this field to women within the general program to eliminate social impediments to women's work. The Ministry of Defence participated in this field by preparing women to perform various tasks and giving them a military rank, through a program executed on many stages. The first stage in 1977 included the issuance of a resolution by the RCC to organize women's service in the army as an officer and a NCO. At the end of 1979 two sessions were opened to prepare women to enter the army, and were joined by 53 girls in medical, scientific, engineering and management branches. They were given military ranks after graduation. In 1979 a regulation was issued to allow girls who have finished their preparatory schools to join the Air Force college, the first group began their training on fighting planes. This regulation can be regarded as a formal declaration of the right and ability of women to work in the Armed Forces in different positions. This program was executed, like other programs, consciously planned to achieve the social change which regards women as a human being having their right to choose the kind of work they are capable of doing and rejecting the opinion that considers some jobs as limited to men and others as limited to women.

- 3-7 Women the Public Army:** The Public Army was formed in 1970 to give the citizens the opportunity of defending the revolution.

In 1976 the National Command of Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party settled the principle of women's participation in the Public Army, and in 1-1-1977 the first group of women joining the Public Army began their military training. Women on the Public Army came to have organizations at the level of a fighting base connected with the command of the Public Army in the governorate.

During 1979 the Iraqi fighting women participated in executing the exercises side by side with the male fighters, stressing the attitude of the State and the Party toward the case of the necessity of women's bearing of all their responsibilities in defending their country.

- 3-8 Women in Vocational Training:** Vocational Training Centers in Iraq participated in executing the program of the State to open all doors to women's work, as revealed in the work of one institution, the General Institution of Railways, its usual working program (from August 1978 to December 1979) included the organization of 9 kinds of technical programs, necessary for qualifying the cadre of the institution, they are joined by women with the percentage of 16%, although the subjects of these programs are usually considered designated for men, because they are sessions for vocational promotion in the fields of: electricity, signals, motors, and trains. It also included training sessions in electricity and printing. The percentage of women in all sessions of the institution reached 20% of the total, which is a high percentage due to the nature of work in the institution and the number of women working in it.

4- The Effects of the General Policies to Increase Women's Part in Economic Activity:

- 4-1** In addition to the special programs which were obligatory in all governmental institutions to open the fields of work to women, all institutions were obligated to adopt certain policies to raise the ratios of women's employment in all positions, according to the

nature of the ~~institution~~ and its social responsibility. This resulted in various effects which we shall summarize some of them to explain the situation in Iraq.

- 4-2 The Ministry of justice reconsidered all legislations laws and regulations that ~~discriminates~~ between men and women, or limits the women's in the development process. These efforts resulted in the issuance of 17 regulations and laws to achieve the aim of equality with men and to clear the way for women to share in building their society, these laws dealt with:
 - a. Modifying the private status law.
 - b. Various economic regulations in favor of the working women.
 - c. Laws and regulations in favor women, family and children.
- 4-3 The working program of the State put great responsibility on the systems of culture and information to change the backward look at women, through concentrating on the contents of the broadcasted programs, which/ mainly strenghtened the traditional opinion of women as a symbol of sex. For this reason, the information activity increased within the informational systems, dealing with the subjects presented by the mass media means, and the call for writing plays, films and songs looking of women seriously and humanly. The informational institutions made direct efforts explaining the women's cause by presenting evening programs talking about this cause. For example these institutions used to present evening programs in the Iraqi Women's Day and the Women's International Day. These programs are produced by the General Union of Iraqi Women. These efforts achieved good influence, for there have been productions dealing with the role of woman seriously, and they created a consciousness rejecting the productions for the narrow role of woman. This was done through the direct policy concerning driving attention to the contents of the programs as well as a policy for including women in all fields of informational work and making special programs by the mass media means talking about the women's cause, also through concentrating on informing of the backward opinion of women instead of presenting pure traditional feminine programs.
- 4-4 The Ministries of Industry, Trade, Oil and Metals, each participated in executing the State's policy of allowing women in

all fields of work. For example the effects of this in the Ministry of Oil and Metals, which has an important role in executing this policy, especially that the sector of oil is usually considered restricted to men.

The Ministry made conscious efforts to change this opinion through: adopting programs to incite women engineers and technicians to joining field work, and adopting policies to increase the percentage of women in all institutions and positions. This led to the increase in the number of working females in the Ministry. The following is a model of one of the institutions of the Ministry, the General Institution for Oil projects, where the ratios of females in its administrative units increased in the following manner:

Branch	Percentage of Females.
a. Designing Oil Projects	37%
b. Supervising Construction	30%
c. Oil Construction	15%
d. Official jobs	24%

- 4-5 The Ministry of planning adopted the policy of including women in the working teams charged with preparing the national development plan in all sectors. In this respect, woman participated in the processes of planning and field follow up, in addition to the formal office work. This led to the increase in women's participation in the different activities of the Ministry, women worked as a general manager, department manager, and member of the important committees, and their opportunities of training increased both inside and outside the country, and they got permissions to finish their higher education. The percentage of females in the Ministry reached 29% of the total number of workers, 58% of these females having the degree of diploma or more.

- 4-6 The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs:

The percentage of women in the Ministry increased from 28% in 1975 to 39% in 1979, and there was also an increase in women's share of training opportunities as it reached the percentage of 54%. Women occupies 30% of the supervising and leading

positions in the Ministry. The share of the working women in the delegation outside the country reached 13% during 1976-1979 compared with 4.3% in 1975. The training opportunities also increased as the percentage of efficient female workers distributed by the employment offices reached of the total number of distributed workers during 1975-1979. Women form 10.8% of the whole number of trainees from both sexes.

- 4-7 The Ministry of Trade: There was no problem in Women's participation in the commercial sector because it was basically a great participation. For this reason, the interest of the Ministry was limited in supporting the role of women in all activities of the sector by enlarging the base of women's participation in the skeleton of labor forces in the Ministry and its following circles. The indicated percentage of increase multiplied all over 10 years (1968-1978) more than 14 times.

The Ministry was active in giving the working women more opportunities to share in the annual training programs inside and outside the country, as the percentage of woman's participation in these programs reached the minimum of 33%.

5- The Effects of the Programs on Women:

- 5-1 The program achieved great increase in the ratios of woman's participation in economic activities and in all fields as follows:-
- a. The percentage of employment among women at the age of work reached 16.33% in 1977 and 18% in 1980.
 - b. The percentage of women in the labor force increased from 17% in 1976 to 19% in 1980, and there are reasons to predict that the percentage will reach to 28% in 1985.
 - c. The annual ratio of increase in the number of working women is estimated by 11.6%.
- 5-2 The program has also achieved basic changes in the general look to women's work and has cultivated the concept that there are no fields which women's does not have the right of entering. It has also created social values rejecting the resistance to women's participation to new fields of work and considering this as a socially unacceptable attitude.

6- The Ways of Generalizing the Experience:

6-1 The project achieved success due to its integration as follows:

- a. It did not regard the problem of women's participation in economic activity as a feminine problems, but as a general economical political social problem.
- b. It dealt with the ratios of participation with integrating ways through forming special programs to open the closed fields of work to women, and it demanded the increase in the ratios of their participation on all levels.
- c. It asserted the necessity that everybody has to perform a role in this respect, creating a spirit of competition and social pressures which helped in achieving its objectives.
- d. Every institution could undertake the expenses of the program within its own budget, so that everyone participated in learning about the financial responsibility.

6-2 The General Union of Iraqi Women participated in all programs, especially in the choice of women and in following up the program.

**Program of action for the General Union
of Iraqi Women aimed at increasing its
effectiveness in improving the position of Iraqi Women.**

1 - Background to the Program:

- 1-1 The Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, which is the leading party in Iraq, considers the cause of Women as part of the cause of the whole society. It had stressed that women are not going to be liberated by Women's societies, they will be rather liberated by the efforts of all organisations and associations dedicated to develop the society. But it had assigned popular organisations a major role in mobilising the masses.
- 1-2 The General Union of Iraqi Women is the only popular organization that represents Iraqi Women. Its law provides for its responsibility to raise the social, economical, cultural and health standards. It bears the responsibility to achieve this through cooperation with government committees and other popular organizations.
- 1-3 The Union had set its programs to meet its responsibilities throughout the past five years (1975-79) which were featured by the following:-
 - a. Weakness of the Union network in relation to the number of housing communities in Iraq.
 - b. A low ratio of women affiliated with the Union, which makes it difficult to realize the programs.
 - c. A high degree of backwardness in rural areas, accompanied by the absence of Union centers and the difficulty to reach peasant women.
 - d. A social outlook that prevents women from entering most fields of work and denies her any activity in certain fields, such as sports and arts, and refusal of work if it was far from home.
 - e. Weakness of the Union apparatus and weakness of the training of its cadres to meet their responsibilities.

2 - Objectives of the program:

- 2-1 To develop the Union network in order to cover all the regions of the country by establishing Union centers and branches in a

meetings in order to unify the framework of activities.

- 3-4 It obtained an escalating financial aid. The state provided the Union with all its financial needs. its budget for 1980 exceeded \$ 35 M., in order to relieve it from collecting contributions and organising activities designed for collecting money.

4- Samples of the Union's Programs:

- 4-1 The Peasant Tent: This is designed as a form of action in rural areas, to provide various comprehensive programs for peasant families, particularly in remote villages where basic services are lacking. The Peasant Tent is a huge tent to be erected in the villages where the programs are set. The tent is accompanied by a number of the active members of the Union of a variety of interests and specializations, together with all what is needed for the fullfilment of the programs. The program is scheduled in each village or area between three to five days, it is usually organised in coordination with different government agencies such as municipalities, the ministry of agriculture, farmers societies, the Ministry of health, and the local vetrenary unit. The program consists of speeches by the local government administrator and the representative of the General Union of Iraqi Women, a «Teach in» to explain the laws passed for the benefit of women and other discussion groups on political, social and cultural affairs.

Then the inhabitants of the village have a medical examination, given medicaments and presents, their animals vaccinated and cultural and educational films are shown.

This experiment was initiated by the Union branch in the governerate of Misan in southern Iraq as part of its educational campaign in the general census of the population of 1977. The initiative was picked-up by all other branches because of what it was able to achieve in the field of developing the consiousness of peasant women, and enabling them to know their rights and enjoy them and to make good use of the services provided by the State. From 1/5/1978 through to 31/12/1979, 1,331 of such tents were erected in various parts of the country, their services were enjoyed by 103,291 persons of both sexes (which means that such services were introduced to more than 1,300 villages).

way the facilitate the creation of a network designed to provide services to women.

- 2-2 To develop membership in the Union from 1% of the women's population in 1977 to not less than 5% of adult women in the country, in order to make it easier to instruct them on the importance of the Union's program.
- 2-3 Drafting and developing special programs consistent with the needs and conditions in rural and desert areas, based on the transference of comprehensive services to the families in those areas, where the Union will remain unable to create permanent centers.
- 2-4 To concentrate on opening the fields which were closed to women, especially sports, artistic and cultural activities, being a cultural pioneer to the social outlook to woman and her place and role in the society.
- 2-5 The establishment of work centers in some of the poor areas, as a means to provide jobs for women living there, and to change that social outlook which does not allow them to work far from home.
- 2-6 To promote other programs introduced by the Union, especially in the fields of elimination of illiteracy, legal affairs, health service and social activities.
- 2-7 To enhance the efforts for training cadres and leaders, and to provide opportunities for artistic training for women and to find ways to achieve this quickly and in large numbers.

3- The Methods to realize the objectives:

- 3-1 The Union based its work upon decentralization and to delegate major administrative and financial powers to its branches in all the governorates, as well as encouraging competition among the branches and to take initiatives designed to achieve the targets of the set stage.
- 3-2 The central directive settled on a new auditing system, allocating separate budgets for each branch with a high degree of financial independence.
- 3-3 The Union held periodical meetings in the Capital and in the governorates (a minimum of one meeting a month for all administrative bodies in the country) together with other

The Peasant Tent had achieved many results, the most outstanding of which are the following:--

- a. the creation of strong ties between the Union and peasant women, which helped to create bases for the Union in rural areas. The Union was keen to develop those ties and start centers where the conditions are appropriate.
 - b. To get to know closely the scope and the quality of the services needed for those areas and to coordinate with government bodies to provide them.
 - c. To provide for the commodity needs of remote areas by organizing popular markets in the framework of the program of the tent.
 - d. To get the cadres of the Union to know the situation of peasant women and the problems they suffer from in order to introduce suitable solutions.
- 4-2 The Peasant caravan: This was used as a way to build bridges between the union and peasant women in a complex of remote villages and desert communities, to get to know the problems of women, to enhance their self-confidence and to make them aware of their role in building the society.

This initiative came from the Union branch in the governorate of Misan. They introduced the first Peasant Caravan on 1/2/1978. The experiment was picked-up by all other branches of the Union in the governorates. The Caravan goes for 10-30 days, during which it travels from one village to the next in a certain part of the same governorate, in order to introduce its services to their population. Such caravans are pre-coordinated with the General Federation of Farmers' societies and the local branch of the ministries of Agriculture, Information, Education and health, in order to secure their services for the population of the villages set on the caravan's program. These services include medical examinations, providing medicaments, cultural events, health education, showing social, agricultural and health films a show of Folklore dresses, meeting peasant women in order to find out about their social and legal problems, instructing them politically and socially and introducing the Union's activities to them, organizing a popular market, distribution of papers and magazines

and political, cultural and health literature, giving aid in money and to poor families.

From 1/5/1978 till 13/12/1979 about 290 caravans were organized which introduced 201 activities, enjoyed by 40,178 persons of both sexes.

The positive results of those caravans are:-

- a. The establishment of coordination, cooperation and communal activities among various bodies interested in the development of the Iraqi country side.
- b. To get to know the problems of peasant women and their needs of various services.
- c. To get to know the need of the villages involved in the caravan program as to the necessary services.
- d. Instructing peasant women on their rights and duties and enhancing their self-confidence.
- e. Creating bases for the Union in the villages included in the Caravan program.
- f. To get the progressive decisions made for the benefit of women. To reach peasant women and to instruct them on the positive influence of these decisions.
- g. Introducing creative entertainment to the peasant population.
- h. To protect live-stock through coordination with veterinary units and providing animal vaccines to the villages included in the Caravan program.
- i. The creation of close ties between the union and peasant population.

4-3 Sports teams: The Union worked to solve another social problem which is mostly neglected by women's societies, in spite of its inherent dimensions related to improving the status of women. That is the problem of social opposition to women's participation in sports. The backward social outlook and social values which deny the women's right to participate in sports created a situation which did not only affect women, but also affected the sports movement in the country as a whole when girls were excluded from sports activities, while families refuse to let their daughter exercise in mixed stadiums. Because the Union believed that

sport is among the important means to change the outlook to the status of women through a quick encounter with this situation, it gave this point a special priority and interest during 1978 and 1979, applying the following methods:

- a. It obligated all its units, all over the country to form sports teams at once, in the traditional sports, basketball, handball and tennis.
- b. It encouraged all units to form other traditional units, such as chivalery, flight, jumping with parachutes, judo, karate and shooting.
- c. It provided the necessities and accommodations of these teams centrally, it also provided coaches for each team.
- d. It cooperated with the unions of youth to create an association that guarantees that the sportive activity would not lead to separation of the two sexes.
- e. It organized matches for all teams, permitting the presentation of an annual sportive festival during the celebrations of the Iraqi woman's Day and the International Day of Woman. In this way, the Union was capable of forming 850 sport teams spreading all over Iraq, including 8500 female players in two years time only.
- f. During a short period of time, the Union managed to change the social values which prevented women from sharing in the sportive activities, so that the numbers of girls and youth organizations are rising in ratio.

4-4 The artistic groups: The union gave special priority in the present stage to women's participation in artistic activity for two reasons:

- a. The social opinion which prevented women from participating in artistic activity, considering them corrupting, which led to opening the artistic field only to women rejected by the society.
- b. Most of the texts of songs and plays supported the rejected opinion of women, stressing her role as a symbol of sex and aiming at exciting instincts.

For this reason, the change of this opinion was considered essential. The Union aimed at changing this through an intensive

program which obligated all its units to establish artistic groups for acting, music, singing and folklore including members from both sexes, having the essential artistic qualifications in addition to the willingness to work and care for raising the cultural, social and political standard of woman, and within this pretext 37 groups were established including 829 members, 9 of them are theatrical groups in the Union's branches in the governorates, in addition to the central theatrical groups in Baghdad. 16 musical and singing groups and 5 groups for folkloric arts were established all over the country. The Union's groups managed to produce to the audience committed art which was admired by all.

They also won appreciation prizes and participated in the national and arab festivals, gained good reputation. Their productions were broadcasted through radio and television stations, moreover, some of the national songs of the Union's groups had publicity in the country unmatched by any other arab or international singer. Generally, these groups achieved the following positive results:

- a. It offered an example of proper social relations between the two sexes, which can be imitated by other artistic groups.
- b. These groups presented committed thought in the field of art and culture and in the fields of theater, singing and music.
- c. These groups succeeded in presenting and communicating the original art and culture, derived from the national, Arab and international traditions to the feminine audience in a way to inform women culturally and artistically.
- d. The presented models of the political and social songs.
- e. They participated in changing the social opinion of women's work in the artistic field by presenting models of artists and artistic activity. The result of this was the increase in the number of women artists in the country, and the change in the degree of commitment by the society in the artistic activity.

- 4-5 The productive factories: to establishing productive institutions is not one of the responsibilities of the Union of Women, it had to open small factories in poor areas to provide work opportunities

to women in need of work, but the prevailing social values prevent their transportation to jobs far from their houses, and because of the lack of fields of work near them. This was considered a necessary effort to encourage women to take the first step by getting out of their houses for work. Most of these projects were those perfected by the common women like sewing and hand carpeting, and they were limited to the poor areas. These factories, small as they are, had special support by the systems and the command because they aimed at achieving the human and social objectives mentioned before. A model of these factories is the factory of the Revolution Rosebuds for sewing, which was opened by the Union in April 1977 in the Revolution district in Baghdad, which is a densely populated area inhabited by emigrant families from the countryside, and considered one of the important public areas. The factory includes in the present time, 20 female workers in addition to the manageress, the technical trainer, the designer and the treasurer. The factory produces children wear and markets, its production through the Iraqi company of shops, which is one of the institutions of the socialist sector. This factory succeeded due to the excellence and reasonable cost of its products. And there is also the carpeting factory in Ashoala established in 1971, including 17 workers in addition to the manageress and the official and technical cadre. In the beginning, this factory produced big carpets, wall carpets and wool handbags, but later on, it specialized in producing wall carpets with political slogans or traditional views, given as gifts to the delegations visiting Iraq and reflecting the civilizational aspect of the country.

In addition to that, there are similar factories in a number of governorates, and they achieved, in addition to employing labor force, a great step toward opening the way for women to work outside the house and outside her inhabitant area as a preparation for their participation in a more effective way in the process of developing their country.

- 4-6 Training programs: to satisfy the great need for qualified cadre and to organize training programs in great numbers, the Union adopted the following policies:

- a. Establishing a committee for training in every unit in all districts of Iraq.
- b. Organizing training programs participated by training officials in the units of the Union to gain knowledge of the program and re-apply it to their units, thus guaranteeing the repetition of every central program in all units of the Union during one month after its application in the capital.
- c. This led to adding a great number of centers, with limited human facilities, and with high capability of training women on leading and supervising skills or teaching them skills enabling them to earn their bread.

5- The Effect of the Union's Activities on Women:

- 5-1 The Union could establish union centers in every basic administrative unit in Iraq, these centers represent «The club of Iraqi Women» to practise in its cultural and artistic activities, training and learning opportunities, and gives them legal consultation... etc. It is planned that by 1980 the number of these centers will be about 2000 centers distributed on all districts of Iraq, joined by 10% to 20% of the total number of women aged between 15-45 years (more than half a million Union members).
- 5-2 It managed to increase its capability of executing the activities, for what was executed in one year and 7 months (1-5-1978---31-12-1979) and by 8 secretariats only was more than 150,000 separate activities, not including great central basis to increase its capability during this year (1980).
- 5-3 The Union presented activities joined personally by the Iraqi women and with ratios exceeding the number of women: during (1-5-1978----31-12-1979) the number of women who actually attended the Unions' activities was more than 9.5 million Iraqi woman - e. e. with the ratio of three and a half activities for each adult Iraqi women (the number of adult women is about 3 million women).

- 5-4 It innovated forms for dealing with the peasant women and developing special programs for them, in a way providing means to offer integrating continuous services for 1000 villages, and offering temporary services for more than 12,000 villages, thus guaranteeing arrival to all villages and population communities in Iraq.
- 5-5 It could find a fast way of training its cadre and members, which allowed it to organize, during one year and 7 months, about 5000 sessions joined by more than 167.000 women to be trained in different skills.
- 5-6 The Union became the main reference of the problems of women in the society, representing a strong dignified organization, and it could identify the necessities of executing the programs of the state to improve the women's position.

Schedule - 1 -

The total continuous activities of the General Union of Iraqi Women on the basis of means, in the whole country during 1/5/1978---31/12/1979

The means	Total n. of activities	Approximate n. of participants.	Approximate time by hours.
Seminars	51,609	2,463,215	95,621
Visits	35,342	1,754,848	63,243
Sessions	4,115	105,871	177,796
Celebrations	8,067	1,012,862	18,764
Film shows	5,386	394,456	11,076
Parties	9,649	1,173,290	26,299
Journies	1,702	181,171	8,794
Seasonsal	2,860	413,499	14,459
Rural Camps	1,855	139,416	11,213
Caravans	388	72,080	3,342
Public work	2,296	71,135	7,517
Health compaigns	3,136	218,215	6,458
Publications	3,013	161,321	5,515
Exhibitions	2,438	312,096	16,488
Public markets	1,720	137,738	11,547
Mobilizing activities	2,234	389,736	7,100
Separate activities	15,956	505,739	36,290
Total	151,761	9,506,814	521,524

Source: The general report of the 9th conference of the General Union of Iraqi Women held during 11-15 March 1980.

Schedule - 2 -

**The Total Activity of the Union based on the Secretariat and
the Kind of Activity for the period 1-5-1978--31-12-1979.**

The Secretariat of the whole country	Total number of activities.	Total number of participants.	The total time by hours.
Culture & Art	23.049	1.983.888	56.109
Illiteracy Elimination	30.673	2.323.398	69.865
Health activity	20.695	1.155.837	41.805
Legal activity	23.757	736.774	40.881
Social activity	16.301	1.766.286	72.607
Developing peasant woman	26.086	1.082.929	53.228
Training & Developing	4.968	167.282	176.484
Mobilization & Organization	6.232	290.420	10.445
Total	151.761	9.506.814	521.524

Source: The General report of the 9th conference of the General Union of Iraqi
Women, held during 11-15 March 1980.