

WID *Information*

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RESEARCH NOTES

Jean Due, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, visited Tanzania and Zambia in October/November 1992. Following are her views and research notes on the topic: "Are Women Benefiting Under Liberalization/Privatization in Africa?"

Structural adjustment programs introduced into tropical Africa in the early 1980s to turn the economies from stagnation to sustained growth have now a continued emphasis on liberalization and a new thrust on privatization. These emphases too are being pushed by the World Bank, the IMF, and the major donors. What are the major features of these programs and are they beneficial to women? Research has shown that structural adjustment programs often adversely affected women and children through reductions in food and fertilizer subsidies, in government expenditures for health and education, in credit availability, combined with major inflationary pressures which increased costs (Gladwin, C. H., ed., 1991, Palmer, Ingrid, 1991, Commonwealth Secretariat, 1989, Economic Commission for Africa, 1989, Elson, 1989, ILO, 1989, Due and Gladwin, 1991, etc.). Are the liberalization and privatization programs gender neutral?

What is meant by liberalization and privatization policies? By liberalization one is referring to the relaxation of government controls so that government agencies no longer control certain prices, production, marketing, transport, foreign exchange allocations, etc. By privatization, one is referring to the selling of publicly-owned enterprises (referred to as parastatals) to the private sector, this includes industries, banks, agricultural cooperatives and marketing agencies, most of which have been operating with negative net returns, to the private sector. In theory greater liberalization will allow the market to set prices, adequately remunerating producers and relieving shortages, and allowing goods to move freely through marketing channels. Privatization will allow greater competition and efficiency as market forces are allowed to operate and the number of workers is reduced to efficient levels. In theory, privatization will also allow a reduction of government budget and balance of payments deficits as inefficient parastatals are sold and the private sector is responsible for former parastatal borrowing at home and abroad. Embarkation on a liberalization and privatization strategy will allow governments to receive large influxes of foreign exchange from the World Bank and the IMF, mostly on a loan rather than a grant basis.

A recent visit to Tanzania and Zambia allowed a first hand view of the manner in which the

governments were carrying out the programs, to ascertain the major parastatal purchasers, and evaluate their effects on women. In 1988 Tanzania had over 400 parastatals of which 339 were commercial; Zambia had over 100. These parastatals accounted for between 25 and 35% of non-agricultural wage employment, many had negative net returns and heavy debt burdens, some of this debt being owed abroad. The outstanding debt of many was larger than the value of net fixed assets and annual losses accounted for between 8 and 9% of government expenditures. Tanzania began the liberalization and privatization process gradually in 1984 when the shilling was devalued, subsidies reduced on maize meal and fertilizer, producer agricultural prices raised, internal trade barriers reduced, and individuals with own sources of foreign exchange were allowed to import goods and sell at market-clearing prices (Amani, 1992). By now almost all controls have been removed, foreign exchange availability has increased markedly, the stores are well supplied with goods (although most of these are imported rather than being domestically produced) and privatization of the economy is being encouraged. Already the most obvious changes are in construction, transport (buses and trucks), small hotels, safari operation, automotive and farm machinery dealerships, small kiosks, service enterprises, and wholesaling and retailing of food and other consumer goods. In Zambia the changes have come later; it was not until the multiparty election in October, 1991, that the new government seriously embraced liberalization and privatization, and changes began. Food and fertilizer subsidies have been withdrawn, agricultural prices increased, private marketing of agricultural and other commodities encouraged, foreign exchange liberalized, etc. In Zambia, too, many more goods are available, but not nearly as many as in Tanzania; there are few other outward signs of privatization. Inflation in both countries has increased in the short run, most markedly in Zambia.

In both countries government agencies have been established to facilitate privatization--to value assets and liabilities of enterprises, to determine which enterprises are strategic and should be preserved (utilities, railroads, etc.), which are commercially viable and selected for sale, which should be restructured and allowed to operate, at least in the short run, and which are hopeless and should be liquidated. The World Bank, IMF, and donors are assisting in this process; studies are being undertaken on parastatals in different sectors of the economies to determine employment levels, earnings, debt levels, net worth, etc. What are the factors which have most impacted on women? Although it is hoped that in the long run liberalization and privatization will benefit the economies and stimulate growth and income, in the short run women and men have experienced both advantages and disadvantages. Advantages include much more food and consumer goods being available, although at markedly higher prices; transport and foreign exchange are much more available; construction (especially of private homes) is very visible, the number of owners of small shops has increased, people are said to be working harder and there is optimism that growth and employment will increase.

On the negative side, affecting everyone, are higher prices and inflation, the importing of goods rather than producing them domestically, the uncertainty of who will be laid off and the level of government remuneration for them. Not only will there be layoffs in the parastatals but large numbers of civil servants will be released. In employment reduction women will be more adversely affected than men if the last in first out criteria is used. A fourth factor is credit policy. The new Banking Act in Tanzania requires borrowers to provide collateral for loans; since smallholder farmers, who produce 85% of the nation's food, do not have title to either their farm or house, they are presently excluded from borrowing for agricultural inputs or other items. This credit restriction also impacts on small entrepreneurs without security; it will be most disadvantageous to women farmers and women entrepreneurs who have even less collateral than men. In Zambia the same banking restrictions apply; previously in both countries agricultural development banks were established to loan to the agricultural sector, but these are now slated for sale.

A fifth factor is the current treatment of cooperatives and marketing boards in each country. These have had redundant employees, high costs, and negative net returns. Because of this they are essentially being left to die in both countries. The cooperative unions can attempt to restructure themselves and become economically viable but this is very doubtful; they can borrow from the banks for needed input, marketing, and capital goods credit but they, too, do not have much collateral. Private traders and truckers are being encouraged to supply inputs and do the marketing; they also have difficulty as the credit crunch does not allow

them to borrow the quantities of credit needed, and they cannot, without much management experience, obtain the foreign exchange necessary for trucks, fertilizer, and other imported items. Currently both governments are encouraging the establishment of small owner-operated cooperative societies at the grass roots level to perform the services farmers need. But these cooperative societies too cannot borrow for inputs; they can assemble commodities for marketing, but it has already been found in Tanzania that private traders will not engage in marketing in areas far distant from major roads (Santorum and Tibaijika, 1992). These policies will adversely affect all smallholder farmers and especially women farmers.

Another factor which adversely affects women and children, as under the structural adjustment programs, are the governments' budget reductions, especially on health, education, and food subsidies; this is especially true of low income groups. In some areas of Tanzania and Zambia parents are keeping children out of school because they cannot afford the school fees; enrollment of girls at the elementary level has already fallen (World Development Report, 1992).

Who are the parastatal purchasers in these countries with low per capita income? The governments were hoping that foreign companies would rush in to purchase the parastatals, but there is strong competition for international capital and management expertise from Eastern Europe (where per capita incomes are much higher), the former USSR and Latin America. Within Tanzania and Zambia most citizens have little savings and there are no stock markets to date to allow small purchases. The domestic capital which is available is owned primarily by minority citizens or former politicians. Sales to date in Tanzania have been mostly to European international companies (often the companies from whom the firms were nationalized), either outright or as joint ventures, or to minority citizens. As few majority citizens have the capital or management experience to purchase the parastatals, income distribution will deteriorate in the short run and women's control of income is predicted to decrease.

What can be done to reduce the negative effects on women? More of the goods imported by liberalized foreign exchange requirements should be produced domestically, thus increasing employment and incomes. Retraining programs are needed for employees laid off by divestiture; but the most important policy to assist women would be the establishment of a venture capital fund which would make loans to both men and women for farming and other enterprises. This venture capital could drop the commercial bank collateral requirements and loan on the basis of character, production, or in groups. Government allocations for health and education must also be increased and foreign exchange made available for these crucial sectors.

UP COMING RESEARCH NOTES.

Impact of Male Emigration on the Status of Left-Behind Women: A Case Study of a Pakistani Village.

Since the early 70's a large number of Pakistani men have been emigrating to the oil-rich but labor-scarce Middle East countries. The estimated number of emigrants ranges from 1 to 2 million. The impact of this migration, in terms of the loss of males to households and villages and the related increase in remittances, is thought to be substantial.

Previous research indicates that migration usually brings about changes in the lives of migrants and their families. Migrants' incomes tend to increase, they are exposed to new experiences, and acquire new social, cultural, political, and economic values from the host countries as well as from the other emigrant co-workers. These foreign-acquired experiences and ideas are said to be transmitted to family members during migrants' regular visits back home. Male emigration also results in long periods of absence from households, which may affect the traditional roles of individuals in the household. In a typical Pakistani household, women are expected to play two major roles: that of a wife, and of a mother. Men, as patriarchal heads of households, make most major decisions, while women are usually responsible for household chores and their related routine affairs. However, due to emigration of the male members, the patterns of decision-making and

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activities in the affected households are likely to have undergone many changes. Women may now find themselves in a situation where they are faced with changed circumstances, which challenge them to make their own decisions in various spheres of domestic activities. It is also logical to assume that changed circumstances have put women in more active roles outside of their households as well. The absence of a husband and an increase in household income may also change the life-pattern, status, self esteem, independence, traditional values and beliefs and attitudes of women in the left-behind families. On the other hand, migration may also expose women to greater stress, an increased work load, and added responsibilities in everyday life due to the absence of their male partners.

This dissertation examines the impact of male emigration on the left-behind women. It focuses on various factors which facilitate or constrain changes in the left-behind women's decision-making roles, their status, authority pattern, attitudes, role change, and activity patterns of left-behind women. Factors which are considered important for this research are: husband's absence and its duration; remittances; extent of migrant's contact back home; strength of family system; woman's age; number of children; and level of spouses' education. The data for the study was collected in village Zarabi of Swabi district in Pakistan. This area is known for high level of migration of its men to the Middle East in the past two decades. Findings will be reported in a later issue of this Newsletter.

by Khalida Shahnaz Malik

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited for the post of **Deputy Executive Secretary, Association of African Women for Research and Development**. Duty Station: Dakar, Senegal. Candidate should have a background in social sciences and humanities with a graduate level degree. Minimum two years in research experience and coordination of related activities, preferably in gender-related issues. Candidates should be able to speak and write English and French. Duties include: - Project identification and fund-raising for implementation of project, budget proposals and accounts administration, liaison with all organs of the associations, editorial of ECHO AAWORD Journals, networking with regional and international research institutions and activist groups, and research coordination and follow up activities. **Deadline: March 31, 1993.** Send detailed Curriculum Vitae urgently to: Dr. Ivy Matsepe Casaburri, Education Development Trust, Munich R.E. Center, 4th Floor, 54 Sauer Street, P.O. Box 61052, Marshalltown 2001, South Africa. Send a copy to The Executive Secretary, AAWORD, B.P. 3304, Dakar, Senegal.

UP-COMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

The Association for Women in Development (AWID) announces a call for participation in its Sixth International Forum, "Joining Forces to Further Shared Visions," **October 20-24, 1993** at Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. The 1993 Forum will extend AWID's efforts to further shared visions of strengthened roles and voices for women in economic, political and social development. Action recommendations from the 1993 Forum will provide a voice for AWID's members at the 1995 UN World Conference for Women. The Forum will address the diverse strategies and methods women use to promote their right to define and articulate their visions of progress and strategies and the methods they use to attain them. The goal for 1993 Forum is to provide an environment that is open to sharing and exchange of ideas where participants are open to discussion, free to dissent, and depart being better equipped to function in a world of change. AWID is seeking proposals in areas: Education and Training; Family; Employment and Income Generation; Health: Caring and Education Strategies; Political Participation: Advancing the Interests

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of Women; Community and Institutional Development; Women's Rights as Human Rights; Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry; and Environment. Proposals should be submitted by April 15, 1993 to Dr. Nancy S. McDonnell, AWID Program Chair, 433 Beam Building, College Business Administration, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, Phone: (814) 865-0384; Fax: (814)863-7261.

Power in Feminism: United as Feminists, Divided Across Power Lines, March 11-13, 1993, Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference is sponsored by the University of New Mexico Women Studies Program, Women's Center and LASHBACK. The conference is about issues that divide and unite feminists. The conference is organized to help participants acknowledge their differences and to develop strategies to overcome fears, prejudices, resentments and competitiveness, to unite for a common goal. For more information contact: Deborah Klein at (505) 277-3854. Women Studies Conference, Mesa Vista Hall 2130, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131-1586.

"Celebrating Differences" Symposium, April 18-21, 1993. Lewis and Clark College, extend an invitation to participate in the Twelfth Annual Lewis and Clark Gender Studies Symposium. Featured speakers for this year's symposium will include Judith Stacey, professor of sociology and women's studies at the University of California, Davis and author of Brave New Families: Stories of Domestic upheaval in Late Twentieth-Century America; Allan Berube of the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project and author of Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II; and Bernice Johnson Reagon, Smithsonian historian and founder and artistic director of Sweet Honey in the Rock. For more information contact Dr. Jane Hunter, Gender Studies Symposium Director, Campus Box 41, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon 97219; Tel. (503) 768-7446 or Elaine Maveety, Symposium Coordinator at (503) 768-7381.

Uniting African World Scholars and Communities: Global Realities & Social Transformation," Accra, Ghana, July 29-August 5, 1993. The National Council for Black Studies, Inc. announces its 17th Annual & 1st International Conference. Topics to be discussed include African World Youth Development, African Economic, Political and Cultural Unity, and African World Women, etc. For more information contact Dr. William Little, U.S. Chairperson, Conference Program Committee, Center for Black Culture & Research West Virginia University, 590 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV, 26506, Tel. (304) 293-7029; Fax: (304) 293-7028.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is organizing two panels on **Black Women in Developing Countries** at the Fifth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (FIIW) to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from February 22-26, 1993. The goal of the meeting is to examine and propose solutions to the critical issues of Black women's livelihood and identity. The meeting is also intended to foster cross-cultural exchanges among all women's organizations, facilitate networking among all the women's organizations present and to lay the foundation for follow-up activities leading to the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. Participants include Dr. Danisa Baloyi, South African Educator; Dr. Glenda Simms, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Ms. Sueli Carneiro of Gelendes, Brazil, and others.

International Conference on Women's Health from March 27-April 8, 1993, Beijing, Xian, Suzhou, Shanghai. For more information contact the International Secretariat: Foundation for International Cooperation and Development, 2911 Second Ave., Suite 1000, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 728-1902, Fax: (206) 728-1563.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

International Women's Health Coalition and Women & Development Unit, The University of the West Indies, A Call to Action by the Barbados Women and Men "To End Reproductive Tract Infections" held March 16-18, 1992.

Reproductive tract infections (RTIs) pose grave threats to women's lives throughout the world. They include sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); infections related to procedures such as unsafe deliveries and abortion or IUD insertion; and infections due to overgrowth of organisms normally found in the genital tract. Men also experience RTIs, particularly STDs, but the prevalence and the consequences for women are much more severe. Worldwide, there are well over 250 million new cases of RTIs every year which have devastating health and social consequences. Nonetheless, policy makers do not understand the substantial costs of failing to prevent RTIs:

- RTIs increase HIV transmission, and therefore HIV epidemic cannot be controlled without controlling RTIs.
- RTIs are the most common preventable cause of involuntary infertility and potentially fatal tubal pregnancy; they also cause fetal loss and infections of new borns.
- RTIs lead to severe emotional distress, pain, and marital discord; their consequences carry enormous economic costs, because they reduce women's productivity in both household and workplace, and because treatment of consequences such as pelvic inflammatory disease or septic abortion is very expensive.
- RTIs kill hundreds of thousands of women each year through cervical cancer, the most common cancer among women in Southern countries; an additional 500,000 women die annually due to unsafe delivery and septic abortion.

Severe imbalances in the relations between women and men, in all spheres of public and private life, are established early in life. These make it impossible for most girls and women to protect themselves against RTIs in sexual relations and in health services. For example, men generally determine when and under what conditions sex takes place. They frequently do not take responsibility to protect their partners against infection and they may or may not respect the wishes of the woman. The only protective technology currently widely available is the male condom, and many women are unable to persuade men to use it. The culture of silence surrounding sexuality further prohibits women seeking health care, emotional support and information for sexual health. Addressing RTIs is more urgent than ever. The present global political and economic context, however, fosters the spread of RTIs and is hostile to actions needed to prevent and control them. Northern governments, multilateral institutions and Southern governments have shifted away from human development, toward economic growth and privatization. Such policies are weakening basic health services and other essential resources. Further more, national governments, for ideological or political reasons, also institute or maintain harmful policies, such as restrictions on contraception or safe abortion.

The conference called on governments, international donors, and health professionals to: remove the burdens RTIs place on women, health systems and national budgets, and to re-establish basic human needs as the objective of development policies. It called on men to collaborate in developing more caring, respectful, responsible sexual relationships and to address the imbalances in gender power relations in all aspects of public life. For more information contact: International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), 24 East 21 Street, New York, NY 10010, Tel. (21) 979-8500, Telex:424064; Fax: (212)979-9009.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Gender and Feminism in Third World Contexts, USA. The Women's Studies Program at Hunter College of

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the City University of New York is offering two Humanist-in-Residence Fellowships, which will enable scholars to work on a research project related to Gender and Feminism in Third World Contexts. For more information contact Dr. Rosalind P. Petchesky, Women's Studies/Rockefeller Fellows Program, Hunter College, City University of New York, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY, 10021, USA.

Center for African Studies Announces their Spring Research Grants up to \$600 in support of thesis research related to Africa. The grant is open to University of Illinois Students. Applications consist of a three page proposal, a simple budget, an application form and a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor. **Deadline: April 1, 1993.** Contact the Center for African Studies for application forms. Tel. (21) 333-6335.

Nelle M. Signor Fellowships in International Relations 1992-1993 for international dissertation fieldwork. Two awards of \$2000 will be awarded to any unmarried Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who will have completed all preliminary exams and course work by the proposed date of travel. Candidates from any international field and discipline are eligible. **Deadline: March 15, 1993.** For more information and application contact Devora Grynspan, Director of Development Programs, International Programs and Studies, Development Office at (217) 244-0246.

International Research Support Grants in the Humanities and Arts. A limited number of research funds of \$500 each are available to faculty conducting research and writing on topics of an international character. Funds can be used to purchase books, reference works, computer software and connection time, long-distance and similar types of expenses. **Deadline: March 1, 1993.** For more information contact Humanities Grants, International Programs and Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 303 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth St., Champaign, Il. 61820, Tel. (217) 333-6104, Fax (217) 333-6270.

OPPORTUNITIES

First Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Women's Studies, Canada. York University in Canada has established a graduate program in women's studies which will be built around the core of five half-courses: the history of women, women and research methodology, feminist theory, women and culture, and women and public policy. For more information contact: Karen Shopsowitz, Dept. of Communications, York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ontario, M3J 1P3, Canada. (source: AWID Newsletter).

Women's Studies, Uganda. Makerere University in Uganda has set up a new Women's Studies Department offering a master's degree at present and hoping to begin an undergraduate degree in the near future. The course is 21 months long and covers a wide range of topics such as women management, development economics, statistics, gender and the law. For more information contact: Dr. Mwaka, WUS Uganda Branch, c/o Geography Dept., Makerere University, P.O. Box 16229, Wandegaya, Kampala, Uganda. (Source: AWID Newsletter).

The University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Consortium is in the process of developing a system of working relationships with Russian feminist scholars and activists. Proposals are being sought for a catalog to be produced by the Consortium Cooperative Initiatives Committee on Joint U.S. Russian Collaborative Efforts in Women's Studies. For more information contact: Sarah Harder, Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, Tel. (715) 836-5717 or (715) 836-2380.