

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
OF IRAN
PROGRAMMES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

- I. INAUGURATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR: His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah addressed 5000 representatives of various groups of women from all over Iran on the occasion of a congress commemorating the 40th anniversary of Iranian Women's Liberation. A resolution was issued by the Congress recommending eleven major proposals concerned with improving the rights, opportunities, and status of women in Iran.

- II. SEMINARS:
 1. International Seminars
 - a) A functional literacy seminar entitled "The Design of Educational Programs for the Social and Economic Promotion of Rural Women" was inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi on April 19, 1975. Ten foreign experts in the field participated in the week-long program of discussions, presentation of papers, and sharing of experiences related to the design and implementation of literacy programs around the world.
 - b) An International Conference on "Participation of Women in Development Planning" which has yet to be scheduled.

 2. Local Seminars

Monthly regional seminars are being held in the provinces throughout 1975. The first four have been in Khuzistan, Southern Ports, Fars, and Isphahan. Three of them were inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi. Their purpose is to gather information on the status of women in each province, analyze the problems and their causes and recommend solutions. The principle of decentralization is applied in that priorities in terms of locating problems and recommending solutions will be determined by the people of the province themselves.

III. RESEARCH:

1. Publication of fifteen research papers--primarily in Persian--on the economic, social, and cultural life of women in Iran, which are assigned to various research groups from universities and research institutes. The topics are:
 - Women and Environment in Iran--completed
 - Urban Design and Women's Lives--completed
 - Carpet Weaving in Iran--completed
 - Design of Educational Programmes for the Social and Economic Promotion of Rural Women--completed
 - Status of Tribal Women
 - Status of Rural Women
 - Problems of University Women
 - Women in the Labor Force
 - Comparison of Iranian Laws with the Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women--completed
 - Employment of Women in Iran
 - Women and Education
 - Role of the Mass Media in Creating an Image of Women's Role in the Family and Society.
 - The Chador (veil) --who wears It and Why
 - The Iranian Housewife--A Study of the Middle Class
 - Urban Woman--Her Problems and Expectations
2. Establishing Women's Studies Courses at various universities

IV. PUBLICITY AND THE MASS MEDIA:

1. Publication and distribution of a series of I.W.Y. posters.
2. Nationally broadcast bi-weekly half-hour television programmes on subjects related to women.
3. Radio programmes specially prepared for each area and broadcast locally.
4. A commemorative postage stamp was issued marking I.W.Y.

V. AWARDS AND CONTESTS:

1. Awards for exemplary achievement in bringing about the integration of women in all fields of socio-economic and cultural endeavor were presented by Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi.
2. Awards for outstanding achievement by women in the arts and sciences.
3. Essay contest for high school boys and girls on the theme of International Women's Year, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education.

VI. ART PROGRAMMES:

1. International Film Festival to introduce films directed by women and/or dealing with the subject of women.
2. Exhibition of Iranian women's arts and handicrafts in Tehran.

VII. EDUCATION:

1. Distribution of the Declaration of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women:
 - a. in high schools throughout Iran with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education;
 - b. in factories throughout the country with the cooperation of the Ministry of Labour.
2. Revision of elementary school textbooks to reflect an active, intelligent, and progressive image of women.
The Ministry of Education has agreed to accomplish this enormous task by September, 1975.

VIII. LEGISLATION:

The Ministry of Justice in cooperation with W.O.I. established a committee to study the existing Iranian laws concerning women and to propose revisions and corrections in the direction of full equality, wherever necessary.