

Women's Decade 1975-1985

Facts: WOMEN

Governments and international bodies discuss "the world's problems"...without noticing that those who suffer from "the world's problems" are women who, in addition, are not consulted about possible solutions.

Sisterhood is Global,
Robin Morgan

Fancy and FACT

Men produce the world's food; women prepare it for the table.

- In the Third World, where three-fourths of the world's people live, rural women account for more than half the food produced.

Women work to supplement the family's income.

- Women are the sole breadwinners in one-fourth to one-third of the families in the world. The number of women-headed families is rapidly increasing.

When women receive the same education and training as men, they will receive equal pay.

- So far, earning differentials persist even at equivalent levels of training. In professional fields, for example, comparisons of men's and women's salaries show a large gap between them even when samples are matched for training and experience.

Men are the heavy workers and where food is short they should have first priority.

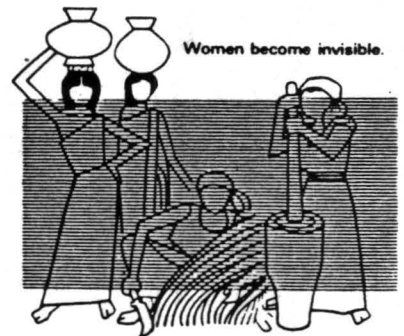
- As a rule, women work longer hours than men. Many carry triple work loads, in their household, labor force, and reproductive roles. Rural women often average an 18-hour day. Nutritional anemia is a serious health problem for women in the Third World.

In modern societies, women have moved into all fields of work.

- Relatively few women have entered occupations traditionally dominated by men. Most women remain highly segregated in low-paid jobs.

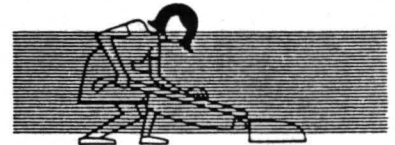
Women contribute a minor share of the world's economic product.

- Women are a minority in the conventional measures of economic activity because these measures undercount women's paid labor and do not cover their unpaid labor. The value of women's work in the household alone, if given economic value, would add an estimated one-third to the world's GNP.



Women become invisible.

Women's work is not counted in official statistics.



Women...A World Survey, Ruth Leger Sivard
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1985 CWS Global Calendar
(New Internationalist Publ., Ltd.)

- Malnutrition occurs disproportionately among girls and women. Food taboos are more commonly imposed on women...in many societies it is customary for the men to eat first, boys next, girls and women last. If protein is scarce, it goes primarily to the men.
- Persons born in developing countries have a shorter life expectancy than those born in developed countries; for males the average life span is 10 years shorter; for females it is 15 years shorter.
- Although they comprise 50% of the world's enfranchised population, women hold no more than 10% of the seats in national legislatures.
- 20 million persons die annually of hunger-related causes and 1 billion endure chronic undernourishment and other poverty deprivations; the majority are women and children.
- Two-thirds of the world's illiterates are women. While the general illiteracy rate is falling, the female illiteracy rate is rising.
- As of 1982, 30 million people were unemployed in the industrialized countries, and 80 million people in the Third World were living in absolute poverty. Most of those affected are migrant workers and their families, youth, the disabled, and the aged -- and the majority of all those categories are women.

Women...A World Survey

Sisterhood is Global

Sources:

Sisterhood is Global, Robin Morgan, ed. Anchor Books, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, NY, 1984, \$12.95.

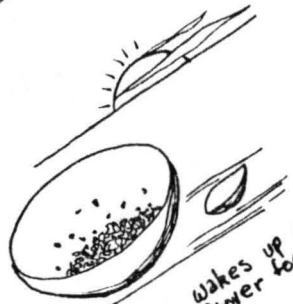
Women...A World Survey, Ruth Leger Sivard. World Priorities, Box 25140, Washington, DC 20007, 1985, \$5.00.

Overcoming World Hunger: The Challenge Ahead. Presidential Commission on World Hunger, 1980. Available at no charge through your Congressperson.

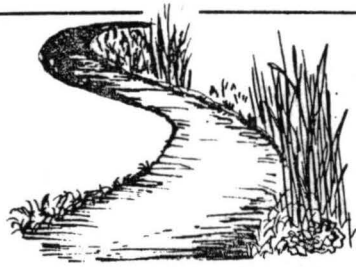


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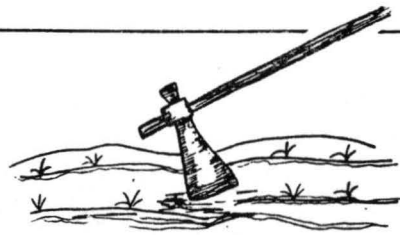
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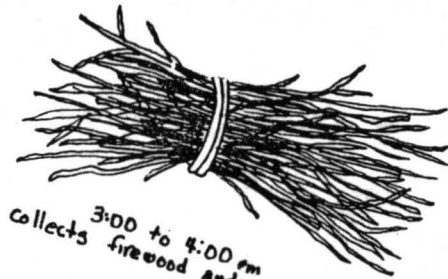
4:00 am some wakes up washes eats leftover food



5:00 to 5:30 am walks to fields



5:30 am to 3:00 pm ploughs, hoes, weeds



3:00 to 4:00 pm collects firewood and comes home



4:00 To 5:30 pm pounds and grinds



African Woman's Day

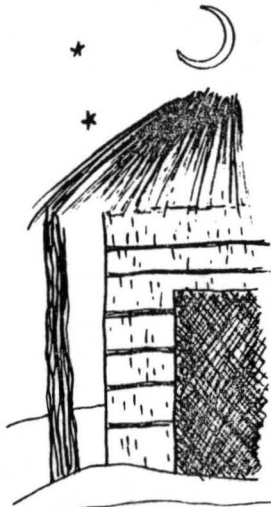
Since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1975, awareness about the role of women in the economies of poor countries has grown, although their contributions still are routinely overlooked.

On the continent of Africa, for example, 60 to 80 percent of all agricultural work is done by women, and this on top of all of their other household chores and childcare. The woman is responsible for most of the growing, selling and exchange of food and produce, and all of the grinding and processing, in addition to raising the children and collecting water, gathering fuel, cooking, cleaning and participation in community projects. Yet, most of the education about agriculture and cooperatives is still provided to African men.

1984 CWS Third World Calendar
(New Internationalist Publ., Ltd.)



5:30 to 6:30 fetches water 2 kilometers each way



9:30 pm goes to bed



8:30 to 9:30 pm washes children the dishes and herself



7:30 to 8:30 pm serves food to family and eats



6:30 to 7:30 pm Lights fire and cooks for family

Artist: Eunice Cudzewicz
Medical Mission Sisters

..... Facts: HUNGER

- In Africa, 150 million people are severely affected by food shortages in a drought that extends to 24 countries. Famine conditions exist in numerous areas. The current famine has been called the worst of this century in Africa. (Bread for the World)
- Malnutrition occurs disproportionately among girls and women. Food taboos are more commonly imposed on women...in many societies it is customary for the men to eat first, boys next, girls and women last. If protein is scarce, it goes primarily to the men. (Ruth Leger Sivard)
- Approximately 20 million U.S. citizens may be hungry at least some period of time each month. (Physicians Taskforce on Hunger in America)

In the Third World, where three-fourths of the world's people live, rural women account for more than half the food produced. (Ruth Leger Sivard)



In many parts of the world half of the young children are malnourished while half of the land is used to grow cash crops for export to those who can afford them, rather than food crops for those who need them. (UNICEF)



- 250,000 people, mostly children, go blind each year due to Vitamin A deficiency.
- 15 million people, mostly children, die each year (40,000 a day) from hunger-related causes.
- A major worldwide effort to conquer hunger and poverty, far from being a gesture of charity to be offered or withheld according to temporary political whims, holds the key to both global and national security. The most potentially explosive force in the world today is the frustrated desire of poor people to attain a decent standard of living.

(Report of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger)

Sources:

Africa Fact Sheet, Background Paper #76. Bread for the World, 802 Rhode Island Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20018, September 1984.

Overcoming World Hunger: The Challenge Ahead. Report of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger, March 1980. Available free of charge from your Congressperson.

Hunger in America: The Growing Epidemic. Physicians Taskforce on Hunger in America, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115, 1984.

Women...A World Survey, Ruth Leger Sivard. World Priorities, Box 25140, Washington, DC 20007, 1985, \$5.00.

The Information Division, UNICEF, 866 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

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 This fact sheet is drawn from six curricula (produced by CWS Office on Global Education) relating hunger to women, militarism, refugees, global security, children, and water: life and death. 50¢ each; prepaid orders. Write to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.



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