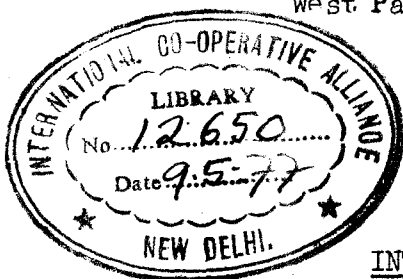


CO-ORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT
AND THE
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

prepared by

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P A R T I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Need for the Study

The International Co-operative Alliance in considering its programme in South-East Asia has felt the need for further extending its programme among the female population. In this connection, a Seminar was held in November-December 1962 at New Delhi to consider the "Role of Co-operation in the Emancipation of Women". The Seminar was attended by representatives of Co-operatives, voluntary women's organisations and some government social welfare agencies. The purpose of the seminar was to study the role which Co-operation could play in raising the social and economic status of women by liberating them from such handicaps as they are faced with at present in various countries of South-East Asia. The changing status and, therefore, the role of women in the countries of South-East Asia was discussed. The discussions in the Seminar indicated the need for viewing the social status of women as affecting the programme of economic development in South-East Asia. In this connection, special attention was paid to the rural economy and the position of women as directly affecting growth. As most of the countries of South-East Asia have a predominantly rural population it was considered that the role of women in the socio-economic development of the East needed special attention. The discussions indicated that there was not sufficient change in the position of rural women in the recent past.

The mixed representation in the Seminar drawing participants from the Co-operatives, the voluntary women's organisations and the various government social welfare agencies, indicated the need for co-ordination in planning and programming at various levels. The discussions further indicated that social conditions have a direct bearing on economic development, it, therefore, becomes necessary for the various agencies to plan and work together towards development. In this context Co-operation was discussed as a method leading to self-help and perhaps to greater and speedier change. It was considered that all agencies are concerned with removal of blocks which hinder growth, the release of potentialities and the full use of inner resources. The co-operative method was considered as a source of development of capacity to manage one's own (the individual in a group) life and to function as an integrated unit towards economic development leading to an integrated community development. The social worker looks for economic and physical well-being or a healthy and decent standard of living and provides opportunities for social growth through satisfying relationships and experience. Since the factors in economic and cultural security and individual behaviour are inter-linked, it was felt that an inclusive approach was needed to bring the various agencies together in the application of co-operative method.

The discussions pointed out the fact that the women's organizations in South-East Asia have not yet been associated with co-operative activity on a large scale, except in countries like Japan where the Co-operative Movement has made considerable advance. It was, therefore, considered that women's organisations in South-East Asia which are actively participating in the social and educational development of women may be associated in the Co-operative Movement for deep-rooted changes.

Objectives

In order to verify the above needs, it was decided at the International Co-operative Alliance Headquarters to pursue the subject by a short study research. The following specific objectives were outlined:

1. To discuss with the officers of the Unions about the role which women can play in the Co-operative Movement in order to create an appreciation on their part of the vital necessity of women actively participating in the Movement.
2. To gather information about the organisation and activities of voluntary women's organisations.
3. To suggest possibilities of developing collaboration between the women's organisations and the National Unions.

Procedure

The travel and study schedule of about 1½ month included visits to Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. The order of visits proved to be advantageous for the study. It was a distinct advantage to observe the close co-ordination between the voluntary women's organisations and the co-operatives in Japan which organise joint activities for the female population for better living and improved social, political and economic life. The condition of women in Japan offered a yard-stick by which to measure the progress in other countries.

In each country, a review of the current situation was made with respect to social change, educational advance, health and welfare and economic opportunity. The changing role of women was studied in respect to their contribution in different areas of life as consumers, as producers, as wage-earners, and special attention was paid to the contribution of women to the family and the home. A special effort was made to study the life of rural women with reference to evidences of change in their position.

This review has been primarily a qualitative appraisal of trends rather than a quantitative statistical survey. The short acquaintance in the selected places limited personal observation of the conditions of life and contacts with the concerned people. The travel schedule was limited to capital

cities and only in a few cases trips were taken beyond the capital city. The cities of Takahawaza and Oyamajima were visited in Japan. A two-day trip was taken to Bagan Pinang and Seremban out of Kuala Lumpur to visit some co-operatives en route to Port Dixon. In Ceylon a visit was made to the Co-operative College at Kandy which offered opportunity to visit three co-operatives en route. The cities of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay formed a part of the travel schedule in India. In Pakistan, Dacca, Comilla, Lahore and Karachi were visited.

In order to form contacts with the women's organisations and the women's co-operatives, two questionnaires were sent in advance. The questionnaires were planned for a brief factual inquiry outline on women's organisations and women's co-operatives. Primarily they were planned to waken the interest of the women's organisations to the Co-operative Movement and to introduce to the Co-operatives the idea of greater collaboration with other organisations in the advancement of their plans and administration of socio-economic projects. One hundred and twenty-five questionnaires were distributed, the return as expected was a small number of twenty-one. The quality of replies does not prove of much consequence to the study except that on interview the women's organisations indicated desire to know more about the Co-operatives, and in more than half the cases a willingness to critically view their own projects in the field.

The primary step in the study in each country was personal discussions with a number of women leaders and the workers in the co-operative field. Wherever possible, contacts were also made with Government social welfare agencies and the matter of co-ordination was discussed.

In eight places visited representatives from several women's organisations gathered together for the first time to discuss community problems, in these gatherings the Co-operative Unions and the Government social welfare agencies were also present.

The response in these meetings was most encouraging. In Malaya and Singapore, plans were discussed for further such deliberations. In Calcutta and Bombay the women's organisations discussed the possibilities of organising a joint planning body. In Dacca, the women's organisations requested for an orientation course in the cooperatives for which an outline was drawn and date fixed. In Lahore, the All-Pakistan Women's Association has proceeded to take up some joint projects with the co-operatives. Karachi showed great enthusiasm and made a preliminary analysis of community needs to be further discussed with the co-operatives. The co-ordinating council and social welfare council have been drawn in for technical help and planning of leadership courses. In Karachi preliminary steps were also being taken to establish marketing facilities for handicrafts jointly by the co-operatives and the APWA.

In the contacts thus made, organisation of business and professional women and political organisations were also included. The former group of Delhi, Lahore and Bombay are contemplating on co-operative housing, consumer stores and cooperative clubs for working women.

This participation of representative leaders and organisations of each area not only had concrete value for the study, but was also a worthwhile experience for the leaders. It may be that the study has stimulated further collective thinking and action for co-ordinating the various human and financial resources for speedier and more permanent change.

Literature was collected from organisations wherever available, further data has been collected from local statistics and Unesco publications.

Special interest was frequently expressed in the role of the International Cooperative Alliance/education, technical assistance and business management.

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Obviously the immediate concrete result of the study is the interest created in the Co-operative Movement among the local women's organisations. If the local cooperative departments and unions could pursue the beginning that has been made, it should be possible for women's organisations and co-operatives to collaborate in many fields of socio-economic development.

P A R T II

WOMEN IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA : POSITION & PROBLEMS

Comparative Population Data

Population figures in South-East Asia indicate over-population as compared to some Western countries. The projected figures of population show alarming growth in the next ten years. The female population in these countries is about 50 per cent, of the total population. In Japan the female population exceeds the male population.

Comparative Population Figures

Country	Year	Total	Male	Female	Density
Malaya	1957	6,278,758	3,237,579	3,041,179	53
Ceylon	1953	8,097,895	4,268,730	3,829,165	151
Hong Kong	1961	3,128,044	1,608,000	1,520,000	2,891
India	1961	434,807,245	223,441,281	210,177,881	136
Japan	1960	93,518,501	45,871,194	47,535,636	252
Pakistan	1961	93,831,982	49,303,645	44,411,968	98
Singapore	1957	1,445,929	762,760	683,169	2,813

Uniform census reports of male and female population according to age groups is not available. However, looking at figures available for the age groups 20-34 years, the female population of Malaya and Japan exceeds the male population. In other cases there is only slight difference in the ratio.

Country	Age	Total	Male	Female
Malaya	20-24	521,300	257,645	263,655
	25-29	440,306	216,030	224,276
	30-34	370,672	187,475	183,197
Hong Kong	20-24	191,000	102,000	89,000
	25-29	242,000	127,000	115,000
	30-34	255,000	133,000	122,000
Japan	20-24	8,286,400	4,095,000	4,191,400
	25-29	8,220,700	4,094,500	4,126,200
	30-34	7,495,700	3,756,500	3,739,200
Singapore	20-24	119,266	61,254	58,012
	25-29	111,726	59,776	51,950
	30-34	89,925	50,148	39,777
Pakistan	10-39	38,612,561	20,490,068	18,122,493
	40-59	10,654,756	5,966,384	4,688,372

(Continued on next page)

India	20-24	35,700,000	18,200,000	17,500,000
	25-29	32,300,000	16,400,000	15,900,000
	30-34	28,800,000	14,700,000	14,100,000
Ceylon	20-24	9,850,000	5,100,000	4,750,000
	25-29	8,830,000	4,600,000	4,230,000
	30-34	8,020,000	4,220,000	3,800,000

Sources:

Malaya, Hong, Kong, Japan & Singapore (Demographic Year Book 1961 - U.N. Publication)
 Pakistan (Pakistan Demographic Survey)
 India (Health Statistics W.H.O. 1962)
 Ceylon (Statistical Abstract of Ceylon 1962)

Population figures as compared to figures employed in industry, the farm or other kind of productive labour indicate that the male population of these countries is making little contribution to their economic development. The unpaid labour force indirectly supports the growth of a country, but in the case of South-East Asia this labour is unskilled and, therefore, the output towards factors that contribute to economic development is very small. The health conditions, social and legal factors in the community and the educational level of women on the whole do not help in greater output. Indications of changes are too slow to keep pace with the rest of the world.

Health Conditions

U.N. Demographic Surveys of Health are indicative of the high mortality rates as compared to the countries in the West.

NUMBER OF DEATHS BY AGE & SEX

Country	Year	Male	Female
Ceylon	1957-60	48,505	45,863
India	1959	1,826,467	1,655,118
Malaya	1960	36,296	29,340
Hong Kong	1960	10,618	8,527
Japan	1960	377,353	328,956

Figures for female mortality in the age group of 15-39 years in India and Malaya show higher mortality rate among the female population as compared to male population.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
India	20-24	814	637
	25-29	771	828
	30-34	805	809
Malaya	15-19	56,952	59,314
	20-24	97,969	119,226
	30-39	112,336	112,504

Although the health targets in present development plans have not been met in many cases, health conditions as a whole have improved in recent years. Death rates in all these countries show decline. Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore and Japan show mortality rates comparable to those in the developed countries. In Ceylon, the survey report of 1957-60 shows that annual female deaths due to Malaria and Anaemia are higher compared to male deaths.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malaria	124	444
Anaemia	1153	1299

Other diseases from which the people of South-East Asia still suffer are Tuberculosis, Typhoid, Cholera, Dysentery and diseases in the form of epidemics.

Besides the mortality figures, reports of health conditions among the women of these countries is none too satisfactory. Most rural women are under-fed, the condition of women who have migrated to the cities for labour is still worse. These under-nourished mothers are giving birth to children who start life with handicaps deeply embedded in their health condition. Except for Japan and to some extent in a few more countries the health facilities in the countries are still inadequate. Sick women and pregnant or feeding mothers do not always receive the medical facilities necessary. Many mothers die for lack of care and due to complications after birth. Supply of milk and protein foods so necessary for their and the children's health are sadly inadequate. In the field of nutrition it appears that most people have a more or less adequate intake of food from the quantitative point of view although the qualitative requirements are not met. Japan being an exception where there is a marked improvement in the quality of the food consumed because of a rise in per capita income, much of this is due to the efforts of the co-operatives and the women's guilds.

Almost every region has plans to increase the health services. In spite of much that has been accomplished reports indicate that the targets of the plans are not being met. Pakistan and India have reported that progress in the field of health has been far below the Plan targets.

Among rural health improvement measures, rural health stations, including maternity and child health clinics are included in the development schemes of all the countries visited. The social welfare agencies and the women's organisations have greatly helped to establish such centres. The cooperatives are taking little or no part in such development schemes. In Calcutta, Dacca and Karachi three institutions now organised by the social welfare council and the help of a women's organisation expressed keen desire to adopt cooperative means for the organisation of the institutions. The reason as expressed were lack of funds for further development and absence of interest and responsibility by any one body. Japan plans at a full coverage health insurance programme for the nation as a whole. It is, however, reported that Japan still lags behind other industrialised countries in respect of environmental sanitation.

In some regions the policy of Government is to foster the efforts of the voluntary organisations in the field of health improvement schemes. This is either done through direct financial aid or through providing the services of trained people. Training for health improvement is also included in the education of the welfare workers. Pakistan indicated in its plan that while allocations for social welfare was most, the main purpose was to provide a new approach to the problems. For this purpose two departments have been added to the universities in the two wings for training in graduate work for social workers. In the discussion with the head of the department in Lahore, plans were drawn to expand its course in the cooperatives and add field training in co-ordination with the co-operative development board.

Education

Whereas Japan offers free compulsory education, other countries of the Region have either made education at certain levels free or planning for compulsory steps. In setting targets in the field of education most of the plans not only have to pay attention to the expansion of educational facilities, but also to keep pace with the growing demand for education. This is also true in the case of female education. The problems facing the countries is shortage of teachers and the education of the adult. The percentage of illiteracy among the population in the village is very high, Japan being an exception. Development plans are trying through various schemes as the "Adult Literacy Classes", "Extension Work", "Community Development" and "Extended Classes" to raise the standard of literacy and educate the female population in better living through education in hygiene and food fundamentals. The basic necessities of life are being introduced to the community by various sources. The voluntary women's organisations, the community development institutions and the extension services are all endeavouring to achieve satisfactory results in the shortest possible time, but the task is so stupendous that unless means of self-help are adopted in the community the progress is bound to be slow. In the informal atmosphere of a co-operative group a skillful leader can introduce home management techniques, budgetary planning, food and environmental hygiene.

The main question to be considered in connection with the degree and level of economic activity of women is what they can offer as worker. To a large extent the answer to this lies in their preparation and education.

In most of the regions under study unfortunately, this side of a girl's life is not yet taken seriously. Though in these countries there are signs of greater awareness of the need to bring women within the education and training framework and particularly to prepare them for gainful employment. The pace in the past has been rather slow. In India and Pakistan the foremost women's organisations are putting up polytechnics for preparing girls for professions. The life of the rural women, however, is not going to be affected greatly by these institutions. The adult rural woman needs training on the job, the preparation for the village girl must come through schools. The village schools in these countries are taking in an ever-increasing number of girls but the rate is considerably slow, and the education mainly concentrates on the three R's. This lag in education of the coming up female population could be met through cooperative youth clubs, and consumer co-operatives which perform the function of consumer education.

Labour and Employment

In a discussion of women in economic life in South-East Asia, it is necessary to differentiate between the women in professional in the educated middle and upper levels of society, women in the lower middle and lower classes in general employment and industry, and women in rural life who constitute the greater majority of the population.

Women in Rural Life

The general pattern of rural life and rural need in South-East Asia does not differ materially except in Japan. The life conditions in Malaya, Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Singapore have great affinity. Similarities were noticed in the attitudes towards life, methods of work and living conditions. The differences are not so much of kind as of degree. In these countries 50-80 per cent of people live in villages. Certain generalizations may be drawn, illiteracy, disease and poverty are still common characteristics of village life which show their cumulative effect in the lives of women and children. Higher illiteracy of women, less school opportunities for girls, and greater hazard of health for women may be seen as compared to men. Early marriages and frequent pregnancy are being desperately fought by Governments. The double burden of women's endless work in the home and in some countries in the fields also lead to early exhaustion. Not always do village women veil but a certain veil psychology within the village debars them from normal relationships and recreation. They live on a much lower social level than men and their lives are often dominated by beliefs and fears.

The low energy output, primitive methods of work and uncomfortable living conditions are not conducive to greater output. Illiteracy and lack of organised skills are further hinderances to more productive activities by rural women. In various regions visited, voluntary and governmental services are available and in many cases these have shown appreciable results, but more often personnel change and policies are recast, with the result that few programmes have taken deep root in the community. The few attempts through the co-operatives are rendered feeble due to the lack of trained and persistent workers. If the co-operatives can harness the human and financial resources of the women concerned towards co-operative projects, it is likely that schemes may persist in growth and continued change and development may be seen.

Women in Industry

Women in industry represent several different types, unskilled workers who are employed as labourers in building and factories, semi-skilled workers many of them younger women, married and unmarried, these workers are either self-employed or work for larger concerns. Among this type of workers are those who have been traditionally employed in certain types of crafts or those who are being trained in handicrafts or minor industrial production. Unlike some other countries of the East women in India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, and Singapore are not whole-time employed in traditional crafts, they rather work in the family in co-partnership with the men. Women employed in factories are seldom given equal pay or more responsible jobs. Married women who do not have families to take care of their children are further hampered in their work. In India and some other regions efforts are being made to establish creches for the children of working women, these are more often charitable establishments. In Japan, however, creches are organised by the women's guilds and the co-operatives.

Women in Professions

The number of women in professional life leading towards independence is steadily on the increase. It has not been a spectacular advance from one year to another but a matter of normal growth. Professions draw women to the cities which presents social problems, generally more so for unmarried women. Japan is taking care of such problems through its various agencies in which the women's organisations play a leading role. Such problems are more obvious in Hong Kong, Singapore and parts of India and Pakistan. The steady social advance and increase in education for girls in South-East Asia should make possible increasing economic opportunities for the cross-sectional body of women in the middle level of society. The Co-operative Movement can forestall the problems of this group by joint planning with other agencies of social welfare.

Women as Producer

Economic activities are those which result in the production of goods and rendering of services. Studies have been made with the object of measuring economic activity and of evaluating it in terms of money, but for the South-East Asian countries full data is not available. In respect of these countries, we do not have exact details regarding the role of women in economic life hence we have to rely upon accounts as given by observers which incredibly lack in exactitude.

In measuring economic activities one most important and indispensable service, namely, homework is not reckoned as an economic activity. Attention is drawn to this matter at the outset because in all these countries homework falls almost only on women; women are free to undertake economic functions only when they have discharged their prior obligations. Homework is not reckoned as economic activity because it is an unpaid job and no money value can be assigned to it. Raising food in one's own farm is also unpaid but this work is counted as economic activity because it has money value. However, we know that if women can perform their home tasks efficiently and with satisfaction and are

able to act as discerning consumers they are helping to stretch out the family income and can use it to better advantage of the family. Further, in careful budgeting and better dietary planning she makes more economic use of the family income and enables the men to higher output. In better management of time and energy the home-maker is able to employ herself more productively in economic activities as food production, dairying, poultry farming, food preservation or some cottage industries not only for home consumption but also for the market. In case of joint planning and availability of work outside the home she can take up part-time employment. Widows and unmarried girls can thus take up full time jobs in order to improve their standards of living and become more useful citizens in the community.

The greater participation of women in economic activities will increase the proportion of the community which is producing and rendering services and will, therefore, enhance production. Such employment need not necessarily wrench the women from the domain of their homes, productive activities which help to bring additional income to the family can be organised in co-operative manner with concomitant co-operative facilities for production and marketing.

Women's organisations in several of these countries are doing appreciable work in establishing industrial centres. In Japan, women work on assembly lines in cottage crafts, in Hong Kong and Singapore women are employed in the production of ready-made garments. In Ceylon weaving, tailoring and embroidery are gaining importance. Pakistan and India are taking up several home industries for economic ends. Most women's cooperatives are also engaged in home industries. Observation and discussion with representatives of women's organisations indicate that in the majority of cases the marketability of such goods present problems. This was mostly attributed to lack of technical advice and marketing research. Limited as these activities are even these do not affect the life of the rural women to any great extent, as such activities are largely concentrated in urban areas.

Women as Wage-Earner

Distribution of women in the labour force by economic sector indicate that in India, Malaya and Pakistan a considerably large percentage of working women are employed in agricultural sector.

	<u>Agriculture.</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Service</u>
India	82	7	11
Malaya	79	8	13
Pakistan	82	9	9

These figures are deceptive reckoned as economic activities when compared to figures for more industrialised countries. They differ in respect of the kind of services performed and of the conditions under which they are carried out. This consideration is important as affecting the money value of the activity.

Distribution of Female Labour Force by Status

Country	Employers and workers on own account	Unpaid family workers	Employees
India	26	60	14
Pakistan	83	2	15
Malaya	29	23	48

Comparing the figures for Malaya, India and Pakistan to employment figures in USA, Canada and Britain, the percentage of women classed as employers and workers on own account is round about 5 per cent. In other words, in those countries where industrialisation has gone further relatively few women are employers or workers on own account. It seems that the same may be true of Ceylon, but in Hong Kong and Singapore, the situation would be different due to their being industrial cities whose economy is mainly based on trade. Statistics on economically active females may be affected by differing concepts. In India, for example, about 14 per cent. of the female population is reported as unpaid family workers as against a fraction of one per cent. for Pakistan. While cultural factors account for some of the differences in female participation in economic activities, it is doubtful whether the true differences approach the magnitude suggested by census figures.

Employment in manufacturing and in commercial concerns in Pakistan, India, Malaya and Ceylon is not on a large scale; it is rather employment on the farm, in plantations and in domestic services which is important.

Age specific activity rates show that the female rates at youngest and oldest ages are higher in under-developed countries, than in industrialised countries. This is due to the fact that changes in the status of women in these countries do not have the same implications for her continuation of employment that they have in the industrialised countries where most economic activity is centred outside the home.

Figures are not available pertaining to per capita income of the variously employed women. There is reason to think that the income from such employment for women is rather low. This may be attributed to low energy output, inefficient skill or unorganised labour, or it may be attributed to the traditional prohibition upon women in many forms of economic activity. Though these conventions are gradually eroding the idea as to what is proper for women to do is very tenacious and has not completely lost its hold on many of these countries. Perhaps the whole story may be summed up by saying that the emancipation which the development of the economic system has conferred on men has extended very slowly to women.

In the field of employment, there is growing awareness of the need for providing new job opportunities. The Indian plan makes expansion of employment opportunities one of its major objectives. It accordingly lays stress on the development of consumer goods production in the small scale and village industries sector, and on other labour-intensive techniques. Nevertheless, the position as regards the vocational preparation of girls and women is far from satisfactory. The training of women in rural areas for gainful economic activity is a key problem in most countries. Apart from training for agricultural work, handicraft training plays an important part in enabling women to enhance their skills and to enlarge their earning capacity. In most cases little thought has been given to training girls for non-luxury handicrafts and cottage industries by the community and contributing to community development and improvement in a useful and productive manner. For reasons of financial, economic and social nature systematic training facilities scarcely exist in any of these industrializing countries.

Women as Consumer

The most important role a woman plays is as consumer. She is the prime person in the family who selects and buys consumer goods. Where she does not do this directly, she influences the buying by her mere presence. In the countries of S.E. Asia the pace of urbanization is on the increase. With this the problem of securing consumer goods is becoming more and more serious. Industry is producing more varied articles of consumption, prices and quality differ from one article to the other, without quality labelling and necessary information for the consumer. Also women's education is lagging in consumer education.

In addition to the problems of the choice and manufacture of consumer goods there is widespread problem of food adulteration. In several places, it was reported that prices of food supplies were unnecessarily on the rise and more than this the quality was reported to be rapidly on the decline. It was also noticed that certain food items to which families have been traditionally accustomed, were disappearing from the market with substitutes being replaced of which the consumer was doubtful. The manufacturers are people newly come into the trade and hence are anxious to accumulate capital. This trend tends to lead to unreliable products for which the consumer has no protection. Adulteration of food has led to further malnutrition and sometimes to fatal accidents.

Consumer stores in these countries barring Japan also suffer from lack of cleanliness and hygienic conditions and thus greatly endanger the health of the consumers. In Japan women have associated with consumer cooperatives in large numbers by which they organised themselves not only for distribution and wholesaling but also for protection against the rising prices, for legislation for quality goods and reliable labelling.

P A R T III

MEANING AND SCOPE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objectives and goals of Economic Development

The initial emphasis in economic development centred round creating wealth. In pursuance of this objective varied programmes of industrial development have been initiated, a greater bulk of financial aid and local resources have been invested in the establishment of industries. Industry has done two particular things to develop wealth, it has offered employment to a large section of the population and multiplied the quantity and variety of consumer goods. In most cases the prices of consumer articles produced by home industries are lower as compared to imported articles. Thus the distribution of wealth is two-fold; it brings wealth to the industrialist and helps the consumer stretch his income to more necessities of life. But much depends on the manner in which industrialization takes place, on how the increased production and wealth are distributed, and on whether the human and social aspects are properly provided for. Theories have been propounded regarding the social problems of industrialization. These are not being discussed as they are beyond the scope of this report. However, reports indicate that many foreign aid economic development programmes have been either too slow in progress or even failures. With the general acceptance of economic development, interest is directed to the inter-relationships of economic and social factors.

Visits to the seven regions in South-East Asia shows that in these countries there are certain social and subjective obstacles to economic development. If it is true that development may bring about a disruption of certain traditional ways of life, with attendant social difficulties, it is also true that these traditional ways of life that do not fit modern economic requirements may hamper economic growth. Illiteracy, social forces, loyalties, habits of work and attitudes towards certain types of work, religious or semi-religious values impeigning upon economic behaviour - these and numerous other factors have been singled out as obstacles in the social and cultural situation that impedes economic growth in South-East Asia.

If we look at the resources of the female population in the regions under study and by large the social factors present greater obstacles to development. Studies of health conditions reveal that a large percentage of women population of these countries are suffering from malnutrition leading to anaemia (low energy output) and tuberculosis. Other diseases as malaria, skin and eye troubles and diseases in the form of epidemics are common factors of life. Superstitions are more prevalent among women than men; this may be due to illiteracy or less education. It may also be the result of restricted lives and hence lack of contact with modern developments. Local social customs further hamper women from fully participating in the economic development of the community; in certain communities as in India and Pakistan, women's place has been restricted to the home, participation in economic ventures is looked down upon. Communities also consider certain types of work as unbecoming to women, or work of type are localised among certain groups of people only.

Again there seems to exist a cultural lag preventing the population from adopting ways and means leading to more economic development. By and large the people are not technical minded, their way of life does not offer opportunities to use initiative and to experiment. To a large extent they have not had the home conditions that inculcate the ability to work together towards a common goal or to take leadership in planning and executing. Women in South-East Asia who have been emancipated through education have stepped beyond the cultural restrictions but since the educational level of the majority of women in South-East Asia is very low or nil, the attitudes developing from the cultural patterns are strongly embedded in their behaviour and mode of thinking. To venture to establish an economic project among minds that are not ready to accept understand or to be able to take responsibility, is not bound to be successful. Self-confidence, self-reliance and group working which are necessary qualifications must be nurtured in a people for the success of an economic project. These habits and attitudes must be based among other things on demonstrated achievement. Community development programmes in various countries have attempted to develop positive outlook through demonstrated achievements - success in accomplishing an undertaking which was selected after systematic discussion, leading on ultimately to a propensity to look for more and more projects to undertake. Such demonstrations on the job must be accompanied by training and education in other ways. Such subjective factors lie at the root of slow development in the bulk of the regions visited.

Proof of the inter-relationship of economic and social factors is sometimes hard to obtain. It is also true that a population may show a remarkable ability to circumvent such obstacles when there is a serious motivation for economic development, as the industrialization of Japan has demonstrated. In most countries under the study, however, such strong motivations are not foreseeable in the near future, hence it becomes necessary to shift the emphasis from creating wealth to capacity to create wealth, attention is immediately focussed on social expenditure and on human investment. The capacity to create wealth resides largely in people. Their health, education, knowledge, skill adjustment to the requirements of a progressive society, and their degree of contentment, incentives and acceptance of policies required for progress, all constitute the indispensable social structure of wealth. On the other hand, the productive basis for social improvements is certainly highly important, the incentives that wealth gives to changes of attitude and the desire for better living cannot be ignored. The problem, therefore, is not merely the "social consequence of industrialization" of the "social aspect of economic development", it is more precisely "Planning for balanced and integrated social and economic development".

The women's voluntary organisations in these countries have been concerned with social work among the lower socio-economic group of women in their communities. They have been sympathetically concerned about their health and education and at times of disaster they have used their resources to extend charitable help in various ways. Such endeavours towards development tend to only touch at the fringe, they do not tackle the cause and bring about permanent changes. Unless the concerned people invest human and financial resources towards their own development, the Movement cannot grow more within

P A R T III

MEANING AND SCOPE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objectives and goals of Economic Development

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and the people will not take responsibility for change in their own life. The co-operatives on the other hand, (and this is more true in India and Pakistan than in other countries), have confined their projects entirely on creating wealth, paying little or no attention to the social and subjective factors to economic development. The results are more often defunct co-operative societies or societies that have taken heavy loans and are not able to stand on sound economic basis. The reasons of course are lack of proper management, member education and research, but all these factors emanate from human factors; the members of the co-operatives were not attitudinally ready to shoulder responsibilities. A co-operative that draws its membership primarily from the women population in these countries would need to extend its scope to creating the capacity to create wealth.

The development plans in the ECAFE countries recognise the need to fit the objectives and implementation of the plans into existing social and cultural value systems as much as possible. But the second Five-Year Plan of India made it clear that "the task before an under-developed country is not merely to get better results within the existing framework of economic and social institutions but to mould and refashion those so that they contribute effectively to the realisation of wider and deeper social values." The Plans of Pakistan and Ceylon likewise view social development as a positive instrument for economic progress. The way social development and social change have been understood in these countries is not always inclusive of subjective factors. The qualities that promote economic growth are variously identified as efficiency, organisational capacity, initiative, energy and hard work; honesty, security and confidence in the future; knowledge and skills, inventiveness, ambition and drive, etc. Although institutional reforms can create some of these qualities, it needs practice to make them permanent.

In the case of women change needs to start from the subjective factors impeding economic development; awareness and perhaps unhappiness and dissatisfaction with environmental sanitation, followed by doing something about it leading to achievement and satisfaction. Pride and satisfaction must also be developed in a task well done. If the task brings monetary returns, aspiration and drive may become ingrained habits. Attitudes of honesty and usefulness and organisational capacity need to be developed through practice in group work, satisfactory results can only be expected if the activity brings matured results. Democratic habits can again be only expected if ample practice is given with satisfying results. To bring about the above-subjective changes in the women population is not only necessary but basic to the changing of the attitudes of the family, i.e. citizens of now and citizens of the future.

Again wages and monetary gains may have less appeal where people still find satisfaction in traditional rewards or place a high value on leisure. Stress is laid in this report to these social and subjective factors not only with a missionary zeal but because experience has shown that unless such attitude changes are specifically planned for and constantly kept in view, no economic or social project, co-operative or otherwise, can become a permanent part of one's life. Education and health programmes are two types of

social activity that are often identified as forms of human investment, and sometimes singled out as the most critical investment for economic growth, yet in practice they are commonly classified under "consumption". Likewise investment on the above-mentioned pre-requisites of economic development may be termed as 'consumption' or even not be recognised at all. If, however, careful attention is paid, one might term such investment as "essential investment to long range planning towards economic development." The successful working of a few such groups are the beginnings of the process of the literation of latent potentialities of the people, who learn more from each other than through formal instruction.

Implications of an Economic Development Programme

Carl W. Birkey, Professor of Sociology, Colorado State University, defines the following implications of an economic development programme:

That when the present development of a country is unacceptable to the people or those who are concerned about them, the present course of stage of development can be changed to a more desirable one in one or a number of ways. It can be changed by one or a number of projected agencies, using one or a number of techniques appropriate for the function of a given agency and the ends to be achieved. The above gives rise to several problems in achieving consensus with respect to ends to be achieved, means of executing the programmes and the manner of executing the programmes.

If we take a specific example of a programme for women in the countries under study, the objectives being to raise the levels of living with a maximum of local participation, we are implying that:

1. The present level of living in the region is too low. We know this because we have valid standards by which we can evaluate existing levels.
2. That we know and agree as to the specific way of life constituting this standard. We also know how to raise the present manner of living so that it will meet this higher standard.
3. The people who are living on this level either share the feeling that it is too low, but may or may not agree as to what specifically is too low, or are satisfied with their level of living.
4. If satisfied with their level of living, it is further assumed that dissatisfaction can be aroused and directed so as to result in organising for the achievement of objectives constituting the standards.
5. That the people who wish to raise their level of living or can be induced either wish or can be persuaded to assume maximum responsibility for achieving these goals.
6. That consensus either exists or can be achieved as to the ends of the programmes, the means of executing the programme and the manner of executing it.

To change the economic level of these countries into a dynamic economy is an enormous task which needs co-ordination of the government and private sources. At first sight the problem might appear to be merely one of introducing new methods of production and the instruments, tools or machines appropriate thereto. But what is basically involved is a vast change in belief and practices. As discussed before in order to involve women who have been tied to traditional ways of life in changing and improving their own and their families living through an economic project, we must promote the willingness aptitude and ability of the community to permit and indeed to promote the growth of such a scheme. The women would need to be prepared to think in new ways to take responsibility and to be able to participate in the management of the project. They must be made to feel the direct benefits of the scheme.

The success of a business project requires technical skills. In the present survey it was many times pointed out by organisers of voluntary and co-operative women's industrial organisations that the project was unable to pave its way, that there were difficulties in marketing the products. As the products were surveyed it was obvious that they lacked in quality and design. The workers had not developed the feeling for excellence in a job undertaken nor had they learnt to appreciate cleanliness and the value of hard work and perseverance. What has been earlier termed as subjective factors leading to economic development had not been developed in the women workers.

A further basic factor for the success of a business project is Business Management. The rural women in most of these regions and also a large percentage of the urban population may not in the initial stages of a venture be able to manage their own business. The organisers of the project must develop in themselves the ability to take care of the business role of the project. The workers would in time learn the techniques if the management runs smoothly and successfully. At an advance stage elected representatives of the group may be given special training. If a project is economically sound trained managers may be employed. The members' loyalty and continued interest in the project is most essential; this is a training in sharing and democratic methods, a pre-requisite to the success of an economic venture. Education of participants must be intensive and continuous. It must eventually become a self-educating process where the participants take responsibilities for their own growth. One pilot project in a community becomes the propounder of many more, for people learn more by seeing and then by listening.

There are also other basis for the success of a business project. The purchase and supply of raw materials, and the marketing of goods, both of these are highly specialized functions, requiring technical know-how. These and other business aspects of such a project need credit, therefore, out of one single project grow needs for widening contacts and for co-operation and joint planning.

In the International Co-operative Alliance Seminar it was pointed out by Mr S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, India, that one of the least successful features of community development in India was the emancipation of women as a whole in the rural areas. He indicated that

although there has been some sign of improvement the pace was slow. In the East, one specific reason why the pace of development has been slow is because one half of the population, i.e. the women have not played their part together in cooperative efforts with a sense of equality. The necessary change cannot be brought about simply by registering women as Co-operators nor by sympathetic social work in the community. Economic activities must form part of an **integral** whole which embraces the whole of the family life. In Sweden, Denmark and America, there is no system of registration of Co-operative Societies because men and women are by habit and education Co-operators.

Besides the implications of ends and means there is the implication of supply and demand. The majority of countries participating in the seminar gave priority to cottage industries as an enterprise for economic ends. For an industry to establish on profit basis, it is necessary that production should be regular to feed the demands created. In most South-East Asian countries people engaged in one kind of work are scattered over many small villages and the output of one particular village is very small. To co-ordinate the production and distribution of the scattered units wider co-operation will be needed.

Co-operation as a Means of Economic Development for Women

The co-operative method is one of the well-trained techniques of economic development. It is also a technique of community development. In starting a cooperative, a group of people are selected having homogeneity of interests, certain common affinities or who live in a place presenting problems of mutual concern. Such people are brought together to analyse their problems and decide on a mutual line of attack. If some of the problems entail a scheme for which finance is needed, a business organisation is set up. The society serves the purpose of a club, a discussion group as well as a credit agency and a business concern. The over-all authority vests in the members themselves but for business management they may appoint business managers. They may also enlist the help of technicians and research workers. Often times these people also become shareholders in the concern. An excellent opportunity is thus offered for developing and educating the people. Members have themselves to take decisions on the basis of one man one vote; they have to ensure that the work done in furthering those decisions is efficient, that accounts are properly kept and the rules and laws followed. No better opportunity for training in the democratic method of work is possible. Since the method uses the resources, abilities and skills of many, it is a sound means of creating wealth.

However, before a co-operative can be formed, sound group work is necessary. Unless the foundations are truly laid, the edifice will not stand. The members of the group must know each other and their problems well. They must be sure of the administrative and financial implications of their venture. Also the integrity of the fellow members is essential. Once the group has satisfied itself with regard to the antecedents of fellow members they can invest in a common venture to solve the problems. The co-operative to be formed may be for the purpose of lending money to its needy members or forming capital for a joint venture. This may be a consumer stores, establishment of a small work centre, for the installation of tube-well, the opening of a dispensary, the execution of a drainage scheme, the consolidation of holdings or the

building of houses. It may be a multi-purpose society having a combination of objectives; it may be a better living society which can combine a number of community development projects. The problems that may be solved in this manner may be beyond the scope of the individual or even a government.

In developing countries with predominating agricultural economy, the cooperative movement is playing an important role in raising the standard of living of the rural population. The cooperative technique is being increasingly used for mobilising the small savings in the villages and helping people to secure credit on reasonable terms. By creating cooperative organisations the villages are helped to evolve a democratic pattern of leadership and to provide a framework through which citizens, by active participation, could regulate their socio-economic life.

The report of the ICA Seminar on the Role of Co-operation in the Emancipation of Women has brought out the following statement regarding the co-operative techniques that can be effectively used by women.

The Co-operative Movement in many countries has attracted participation of women in the various fields of its activities. Women have associated themselves by forming Women's Cooperative Guilds, Housewives' Association or similar organisations which serve as ancillary units to the Cooperative Societies in their respective areas. The Women's Organisations are given help by Cooperative Societies to enable them to carry on their activities. However, the main income of these organisations comes from membership fee and donations. The Women's Guilds serve as a forum for the discussion of cooperative problems especially problems related to the working of their society and distribution of commodities through the shops run by cooperative organisations. The Guilds serve as useful communication channels for conveying to the societies the general reactions of consumers and the trend towards the demand of commodities by the consumers. The Co-operatives are also able to influence consumers through the work of the cooperative women's guilds.

Apart from the problems connected with the Co-operative Movement, the Women's Guilds have also played a very useful role in bringing about social reforms in some countries. Women's cooperative guilds in United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Japan have contributed a great deal in enlisting the support of women to co-operative activities. In America separate Women's Guilds are not organised.

The women's organisations in South-East Asia have not yet been associated with co-operative activity on a large scale except in countries like Japan where the Co-operative Movement has made considerable advance. There exists, therefore, a wide field which can be explored by Women's Organisations for developing cooperative activities which are of special interest to women. The women's organisations in S.E. Asia are fairly active and they have to their credit many achievements in social and educational fields. In the course of the tour it was noticed that there is a growing

realization amongst a few women's organisations of the need for associating themselves with the Co-operative Movement and if persistent efforts are made it should be possible for women's organisations to collaborate in many fields in the future. The following could be stated as some of the more important fields through which women can effectively participate in co-operative activity.

1. Agricultural Co-operatives

The Rural Co-operative Societies have now been trying to ensure increased social and economic benefits by enlarging their sphere of activity. Efforts to improve the social conditions of the rural families are necessary to create among the rural families a greater awareness of the need for changing gradually the way of life which has been followed by them for centuries without change. The Women's Organisations can play a very effective role in educating the families in modern methods of maintaining health standards and cleanliness in their households. There is also a very urgent need for improving the quality of food that is at present consumed by rural families.

Most of the rural families in South-East Asia will be found to be indebted to money-lenders. The balancing of the family budget has never been achieved except by a few families who happen to have adequate sources of income from land. It is, therefore, necessary to educate the rural families in family budgeting. This is possible only if the women's organisations undertake the work of educating the women in family budgeting. Also the rural population in most of these countries is still by and large illiterate. The efforts of the State and voluntary organisations to educate this population are inadequate. As the urgent need of the hour is to give basic education to rural families it will be of great help if women's organisations undertake the work of educating women and making them capable of following the trends of the modern world. The Rural Co-operatives are also gradually becoming the training centres for the members and if women's organisations are able to bring about participation of women in local co-operative activity it will help the women to bring about participation of women in local co-operative activity; it will help the women to become citizens and effective partners in the democratic society.

2. Small-Scale and Cottage Industries

In urban areas women are coming forward in large numbers to take up responsibilities in the fields of education, health and secretarial spheres. Another important field in which women are gradually coming forward is in the case of small-scale and cottage industries. A number of organisations responsible for the development of cottage and small-scale industries are helping women's organisations to interest themselves in the sphere of cottage and small-scale industries. Attempts are also being made to form independent co-operative organisations for women for the development of cottage industries. The field of cottage industries is specially suited for women as it offers a means by which particular skills and aptitudes of women could be utilized.

Most of the cottage industries and handicrafts can be operated without establishing a workshop which would call for large investments. It is possible for the co-operative store to allocate work to its members who can complete the job in their spare time at home. The small-scale industries also provide very useful source of income to women for supplementing the income of their families, and for providing themselves with occupations to be undertaken in their spare time. The Women's Co-operative Organisations can arrange for the marketing of small-scale industries products through emporia and stores run by them in important towns and commercial cities. A few successful examples in this field show that given proper assistance and help, women's organisations are able to organise effectively the sale of these products. The societies in this field also serve as an excellent training ground for fuller participation of women in the social and economic life of the community.

3. Consumers' Co-operation

The consumers in South-East Asia are not organised so as to encourage the modern trends in the distribution trade of consumer articles. The women's part in this organisation is very small. The consumers, therefore, are not able to check the widespread adulteration of food stuffs which is practised by traders on a large scale. Consumers stores in these countries, barring Japan, also suffer from lack of cleanliness and hygienic conditions endangering the health of the consumers. In the absence of a better distribution system they have to rely on the traders for meeting their day to day requirements. Although, attempts are being made to encourage the acceptance of standards for consumer articles, few commodities have so far been covered and that too only in a few countries of the Region. By and large, the type and quality of the article is the sweet pleasure of the manufacturer and attractive packages and misleading advertisements, which are common, are able to persuade the customer to buy unreliable articles at high prices. As most of the consumers are women, consumer co-operatives have a natural field of work which is of obvious interest to women. One of the important reasons for failure of consumers co-operatives in South-East Asia is the absence of efficient management and loyalty of members. If, however, women are associated with consumers co-operatives in large numbers, there is a better chance of enlisting loyalty of members and developing able leadership from among women members. The field of consumers cooperation provides women with unique opportunity by which they can organise themselves as consumers for distribution, wholesaling and ultimately for production of consumer goods with a view to provide themselves with the best possible quality of goods at the least possible prices.

Experiences of advanced consumer cooperative movements in non-Asian countries have shown that the consumer cooperative movement has the capacity of rapidly becoming one of the most effective means by which the economic and social standards of household could be raised. In the countries of S.E. Asia also, the pace of urbanisation is increasing. With this the problem of securing consumer articles is becoming more and more serious and the need for developing strong consumer organisations is being felt very acutely. Active participation by women in cooperative activity will help to solve a number of these problems.

4. Co-operative Housing

The pace of urbanization has also made the problem of housing very acute. A few successful examples of organising families into housing cooperative societies have helped to raise the standard of housing in many countries. The Housing Cooperatives do not complete their work by building houses. As a matter of fact, construction of houses is the beginning of a long and happy community life within the framework of the cooperative organisation. The women's organisations can play a very useful role by undertaking activities in the field of education and health of the families living in the cooperative housing areas. Apart from ensuring standards of hygiene and educating the members and their families, women's organisations can also help in promoting a very happy community life in the areas covered by cooperative housing.

It is, therefore, clear that the cooperative organisations provide a rich field through which women's organisations could make a substantial contribution towards raising the social and economic status of their members.

PART IV

EXISTING AGENCIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REGIONS UNDER STUDY

I. International Organisations

For purposes of co-ordination, attempt was made to contact the international sources which offer services of specific interest for women in the field of social and economic development. There is a network of projects for the uplift of women in the regions visited. The United Nations, through the agencies of Unesco, ILO, WHO, FAO and ECAFE are supporting welfare programmes that either directly deal with women or give their services to women through the community programmes.

Through such help the health services have been improved bringing the mortality rate among the women considerably down. Studies are being made regarding labour openings for women. The social work programme in each of these regions is training an increasing number of women for social work in the communities. Social work projects have been initiated through programmes as community development and the village aid, etc.

The International Co-operative Alliance has through the Seminar in November-December 1962 awakened a consciousness of economic projects for women. Through the present study it has taken steps towards co-ordination of work with the voluntary women's organisations and tapped other sources interested in the welfare of women.

The ILO has, over the past years, collected vast data concerning women in South-East Asia for the tri-congress meeting to be held in 1964. The theme of this Congress will be "Women Workers in a Changing World."

Japan has a membership in various international organisations interested in social welfare. In the International Conference of Social Work in 1958 specific attention was paid to the welfare of women in S.E.Asia.

In India, through the community development and now through the social welfare programme much attempt has been made to extend help to women. In Pakistan likewise the earlier village aid programme and now the social welfare council are doing much to bring about a change in the living conditions of women. In Hong Kong, the Deptt. of Social Welfare is closely working with the Unesco in studying the problems of the Chinese refugees and planning for the growing problems of working women in Hong Kong.

The U.N. Agencies mostly work through local organisations, offering financial and technical assistance. Through the research programmes these bodies have made much valuable material available for programme building. In the recent past the AID, the Ford and the Asia Foundations and other agencies have shown special interest in the co-operatives. This is bound to be of great assistance in special programmes for women.

II. State Agencies

Social services in South-East Asia have made considerable advances in the recent years. Whereas some years back the only help offered by Government was in the form of emergency help or establishment of health and educational services, now each Government is endeavouring to attack the problem of poverty by more immediate ways through its welfare agencies. Among these Agencies the Co-operatives became Government-sponsored to tackle first the economic and now also the social problems in the various regions.

Japan

In Japan, State Aid or public assistance is an indispensable feature of any social welfare service. The daily Life Security Law of Japan framed in pursuance of Article 25 of its Constitution establishes the responsibility of the State for maintaining a minimum standard of living for all without discrimination of race or sex. The social Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Health and Welfare serves as the main agency for administration of its diverse public welfare programmes.

A welfare office is organised for each 100,000 population. There are 1,022 welfare offices in the country under the supervision of approx. 1,300 supervisors and 7,800 welfare secretaries. The National Government has a provision in its budget for contribution of 8/10 of expenditure on such welfare services. In case the local government sets up a Public Assistance Service, 25 per cent. of the cost is met by the Prefectural Government. The Ministries of Education and Labour have their special women's sections.

The welfare office is required by law to carry out a 7-point programme for maintaining minimum standard of life. These are:

1. Living Aid
2. Education Aid
3. Housing Aid
4. Medical Aid
5. Maternity Aid
6. Occupational Aid
7. Funeral Aid

Hong Kong

Through Government-sponsored and voluntary social programmes, Hong Kong is struggling to meet the problems of the immigrants and refugees who were known as "squatters". Resettlement is the most gigantic problem of Hong Kong. Social and economic problems of this group are complex and many. The Social Welfare Department and also the Hong Kong Women's Association are trying to meet the needs by planned programmes.

Limitations of time did not allow a wider study of social welfare agencies in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan has a network of social welfare agencies operated through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Besides the Educational and Medical services, the community development and social welfare division have launched several community development projects that concern the women directly. The programme proposes to render financial-aid to agencies and institutions of social welfare. It renders consultative services and undertakes short term training programmes. Under this programme several research studies have been undertaken.

The main objective of the Agency is to ensure minimum uniform standard of services throughout the country by assisting the already existing agencies and institutions, to strengthen and improve their services. It carries out this objective by the services of professional staff and by assisting in programmes that are new to a particular agency or community.

The Schools of Social Work are turning out women social workers in increasing numbers. These women are employed in a network of community projects that offer special facilities to women in the fields of literacy, economic activities, health and sanitation, child rearing and professional training.

The community development programmes offer great opportunity for the application of the co-operative method, but so far little or no co-ordination has been effected. The matter was discussed with the Directors of Social Welfare Council and the Co-ordinating Council, in both cases the reception was very enthusiastic.

India

The programmes of social welfare and economic development in India and Pakistan have progressed on much the same pattern of development. The Central Social Welfare Board encourages both the State Government and private enterprises besides its own network of specific programmes.

Through the Department of Industries, India has stepped far ahead in providing economic activities to women in the field of spinning and weaving. Training and facilities are offered in many other home industries, thereby providing opportunities for women to earn additional income. Literacy drive through Mahila Samitis and the Panchayats has done much to change the attitudes of women and to remove some of the disabilities in their way of development.

III. Women's Organisations

Japan

The Government of Japan encourages the formation of voluntary civic organisations of women for functioning as democratic bodies and for developing positive activities. A survey of the women and Minors Bureau indicates that 63% of all Japanese above the age of 20 are members of one

or more organisations, especially of women's clubs. Throughout the country, there is a network of approx. 42,000 units of women's organisations. The state and local public bodies assist these organisations from the standpoint of general administration. This is done by extending to them necessary guidance and advice, by organising various courses or by distributing reference materials.

Women's organisations in Japan are broadly categorised into two.

1. Regional organisations - relating to social and education needs.
2. Voluntary organisations - undertaking selected activities. The categories of activities of women's organisations and the ratio of each type may be sub-divided as follows:

a. Educational and cultural activities	28.7%
b. Social activities	20.2%
c. Life Improvement Activities	26.2%

The Unit clubs in the villages, towns or cities, affiliate to the Prefectural federations, which in turn is affiliated to the National Council of Federation of Regional Women's Clubs. Each regional club deals with the problems of its own region as well as aims to attain the common goal of higher standard of women's status and develop the welfare of the communities.

The National Federation of Regional Women's Organisation has its outstanding projects as children's care, Orphanage, sanitary service, education of mothers-in-law and daughter-in-law, old people's homes, production of films for mothers protection, and monthly newspapers. At the Prefectural level it has established consumer clubs. It co-ordinates its work with the co-operatives by its members having dual membership and its officers holding membership in the co-operative unions.

Other women's organisations as the Trade Union Council of Women, the Democratic Women's Association, the Business and Professional Women's Association are active in specific fields and wherever possible they extend their services to women working in labour and professions.

Hong Kong

On the whole, it was reported that the women's organisations were not very active in supporting programmes for the need of lower economic groups. Most of their programmes are of a social nature for their own members.

Singapore

Singapore has several women's organisations. Representatives from the following were contacted:

1. International Women's Organisation
2. Muslim Women's Organisation
3. Y.W.C.A.

4. Chinese Women's Organisation
5. Pan-Pacific and South-East Women's Association
6. Wanita Singapura

As in the case of Hong Kong, most of these organisations cater to the needs of their own members, and the activities are mostly of a social nature.

Malaya

The activities of women's organisations in Malaya largely revolve round social activities for its members. The Y.W.C.A. is an active group undertaking several programmes which extend aid to the needy. The women's farm association of Siri Malangan has initiated a programme of technical aid to the farm worker. This programme is supported by the Agricultural Department.

The Women's Institute of Malaya has a rural programme which offers training courses in Home Economics. It has pioneered a programme of rural uplift in which two representatives from each campong are invited to a centre for training in problems of rural life. It also attempts to co-ordinate the work of various Government institutes and specialists.

Ceylon

In Ceylon, the Mahila Samiti organisation has a wide programme of training village leaders for development of the programme in the villages. The programme of the Mahili Samiti is extensive, its basic objective being to improve home life through better methods and more income. This organisation, however, with all its facilities has not yet established any women's cooperatives.

Another group of women under the supervision of Mrs. Obesekara is also engaged in an economic project of handkerchief making. With the restrictions on import of foreign goods, both this and the weavers' organisations are flourishing. There is obvious readiness and a great opportunity for co-ordination of work of this kind with the Co-operative Movement in Ceylon.

Pakistan

In Pakistan the women's organisations get full support of the Government and are assisted in their projects by financial and technical help. The All-Pakistan Women's Association has played a leading role in the uplift of women. It has a network of branches in all regions and districts. Besides the APWA, there are the special women's organisations with specific aims as the Business and Professional Women's Associations, the University Women's Association, and the Home Economic Association. At the district level more and more women's organisations are developing, taking their lead from APWA.

The APWA has a multipurpose programme for the advancement of women. It seeks to consolidate and co-ordinate the various social welfare activities.

It aims to make the women of Pakistan conscious of their legal, political, social and economic status. It represents and agitates for the legal rights of women.

The programmes of APWA cover a wide range of women's rights and responsibilities - education, rural work, industrial homes and shops, mothers clubs, social welfare and relief, health hygiene and family planning, social welfare training, cultural and international activities.

The APWA has in a few cases embarked on joint programmes with the co-operatives. Plans of closer co-ordination have been discussed.

India

The All-India Women's Conference is the leading women's organisation in India. It is an All-India body with 42 branches in all the States. The activities of this organisation are widespread and being carried out by efficient and experienced people in the field. In its educational programmes the Conference has organised Nursery Schools, Balwadi classes and condensed courses for adult women, who had not the opportunity of education earlier. In the field of health it operates mobile health units and dispensaries besides milk centres, etc. These projects give employment to hundreds of women. Vocational and industrial training centres and production units have enabled many women from rural as well as industrial areas to use their time more productively.

The work of the branches is extended to villages in particular. The Central Office is helping to build up a comprehensive clearing house of information regarding women's status and activities.

In Calcutta, the All Bengal Women's Union, runs Homes for the rehabilitation of women whereby these women are taught skills and are educated for useful life in the community. The Nari Seva Sangh in Calcutta is planning to extend its programmes into establishing a co-operative production centre for its trainees so that they are enabled to make a regular income.

In the same way the Bombay State Women's Council, the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association and the Guild of Services of Madras are doing useful work with the women in the respective states. The women's organisations in India are very much aware of the usefulness of the co-operatives in the social and economic development of women.

IV. CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

The Cooperative Movement in the Regions visited take on differing organisational patterns. In some it forms part of Government operations, in others it is a semi-government organization and in some it is a voluntary movement. In most regions the Movement has its government-sponsored department and an independent voluntary body which is active in the propagation of the Movement through education, sponsorship, guidance, survey and inspection. It forms a link between the people and the Government. Presented here is a view of the Movement in Regions comprising the study as it affects the women.

J A P A N

Agricultural Cooperatives

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan deals with women through the primary societies of which she becomes a member by her own right and that of family membership. (In this context we must remember that it is the women in Japan that does most of the farming.) The average membership per cooperative is 537.2 or 469 families. The rural women are keen to bring about betterment in rural economy and improve their living together with the rise of their status. In order to realize these ideals, group activities and the cooperatives promoted the organization of women's cooperatives in each district within the boundary of the general unit cooperatives, forming into Prefectural units leading to the National Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives.

Life improvement programmes are carried on through the National Women's Association of Agricultural Cooperatives and through the local women's associations as housewives associations. The Union has a network of activities for the social and economic development of the rural women. The initial approach taken is based on the cultural set up of the community. The farm family of Japan is a close knit unit so that the approach is made through the family in the form of agricultural cooperatives, which undertake practical productive work, technical assistance, saving schemes and life improvement programmes.

Consumer Cooperatives

The consumer cooperative movement in Japan is doing great service to the nation by its own independent activities and in liaison with other consumer organisations. The liaison committee of consumers organisations was initiated by the Cooperative Movement. It is formed of the consumer cooperatives, women's organizations and trade unions. It works as a clearing house for information on consumer problems and sponsors joint activities against increased prices as enactment of laws and regulations.

The consumer cooperative is a democratic organization of the consumers themselves. They make joint contributions of capital and with it carry out business on non-profit basis. The consumers get information regarding the mechanism of distribution, how to judge the value of commodities and how to use them wisely, which helps to improve and enrich their lives. The success of the consumer cooperative depends on the organization and operation of women's in it. It was indicated that without mobilizing the member housewives views, opinions and desires, the purchasing marketing efficiencies and services of the consumer cooperatives could have never developed. For the smooth running and efficiency of its operations the cooperative organises member housewives groups, commodity-wise and residential area-wise.

Household book-keeping maintained by member housewives is also very helpful in training the women in rational, scientific and intelligent home-management. This system efficiently works as consumer enlightenment media. Consumer co-operatives also collect periodical data relating to consumer

commodity prices and make country-wide statistics on the movement of commodity prices immediately affecting the family budget.

The consumer co-operatives in Japan expand into many purpose co-operatives by offering to its women members other services as education in better living, e.g. flower arrangement, cooking, tailoring, sewing, dancing and physical exercises, etc.

In spite of the low annual turnover of 1% of the national total retail transactions, the organisation is gaining strength, membership is increasing and cooperative shops are developing into modern type super-markets. The National Consumers Cooperative Extension called the women's guild of Japanese Consumer Cooperatives has a membership of 65 women's guilds numbering 1,60,000 individual members. The organisation is carrying on active research and has a very strong programme of member education.

Industrial Co-operatives

Industrial cooperatives are formed basically as ancillaries to small industries. This movement has provided employment to a large number of women working as full-time or part time wage earners. At the Prefectural level these cooperatives may form part of the programme of the agricultural co-operatives, providing economic activities during the less active farming season.

Activities like doll-making are undertaken on assembly lines. Usually several primary cooperatives operate through a secondary organisation which employs adequate technically qualified people for assembling the parts made in the primary societies. The secondary cooperatives undertake the marketing of goods. They develop contacts with firms for orders and distribution of the products. The products of the organisation are standard and top quality articles which do not find difficulty in processing. The designer at the centre is constantly producing new designs and thus a regular market is created. At the Prefectural level institutes of Handicrafts established by the Ministry of Labour have their women's branch which help to provide side work for additional income. It was reported at Oyama city that 95% women come to it for consultation, of these 12.5% were widows. A small percentage of men also come to these Institutes. The average income reported from work provided by the Institution was about 5,000 Yens per month. The Institution acts as intermediary and finds contacts for workers. Some of the kinds of work mentioned was repair of Nylon Stockings and embroidery on manufactured sweaters.

In the city of Takanawaza the President, Mr Komatzu, works in liaison with the Vice President of the Women's Guilds, Mrs. Suzuki, who is a Cooperator. The agricultural cooperatives allot 50,000 to 100,000 Yens to the women's guilds for its projects. The Chairman of the Women's Guild meets with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Cooperatives to convey the need of the farm women and plan on joint projects.

Other organisations in Takanwaza city that operate jointly with the co-operatives are the young Women's Guild. The Agricultural Cooperative jointly with the women's guild, has a special Standing Committee on Teenagers' problems.

Other Co-operatives

Other Cooperatives like the Youth Organisation and the Ie-No-Hikari (The Light of Home) Cooperative Publishing Association help in co-ordination of better living programmes in the family. The Ie-No-Hikari Association Undertakes:

1. Publishing of two kind of periodicals
2. Publishing of books
3. Cultural projects to elevate and improve rural living conditions
4. Services to the members of the local cooperatives who are subscribers to the periodicals and books published by the Association.

The Association aims basically at the education of the rural population. It further tries to inculcate an ideal of international friendship and give information about affairs in other countries. It also offers other services as:

1. Consultation services on personal affairs, child care and health and reading
2. Gramophone recording and supply of discs of popular songs and ballads
3. Book clubs
4. Loan services of magnetic tape-recorders
5. Travel Services
6. Production of movies
7. Boarding facilities for farmers when they visit Tokyo
8. Services for recreational purposes.

The Association draws its membership from cooperative federations of Agriculture, marketing, banks, forestry, insurance and prefectural credit cooperatives. The services rendered by the Association are of high quality and much appreciated.

Co-ordination

At the Prefectural level, visits to Oyama and Takanawaza cities showed close association of the Agricultural Cooperatives and the Women's Guilds. It was happily reported by the President, Mr. Tanami, that the employers' cooperative alone could never have carried out its objective single handed, and hence it created women's guilds and Young Men's Guilds. The women's guilds associate itself in all aspects that deal with improvement of home conditions - from problems of over work to improved methods of work and comforts as supply of hot water. The women's guilds work in close co-ordination with the cooperatives in their educational programme of home

budgeting, dietary planning, recreational activities and economy projects, and in the organisation of kindergardens, creches and administration of super-markets.

There seems to exist a strong co-ordination between the women's organisations and the Cooperative Movement at the firm level. Women's guilds spring out of the cooperative movement. The cooperatives utilize the services of the women in development schemes through joint planning and giving them the leadership in the programme with continued guidance and banking. The Directors of the women's guilds are also sympathizer members of the cooperatives and the members of the cooperatives hold membership in the local women's association.

The activities through which the objectives are implemented are selected jointly. At the national level the Union has taken such responsibilities as producing films, regular publications and radio programmes. The film, "The Life of Rural Women", in 1954 was produced with the help of the rural women themselves; all women paid ten Yens or gave one egg towards the expenses of the film. The Housewives' Association with its central office in Tokyo is liaised with the Cooperative Movement in the fields of research and training. The Housewives' Association carries out research on the essential needs of women as dietary, health and consumer problems. An interesting project recently completed is on the need of protective garments against the reaction of farm insecticides. The Housewives' Association has put out on the market designs for overalls in materials tested in the centre, these garments are manufactured by firms and passed on to the farmwives through the local Co-operatives.

The local Co-operatives in collaboration with women's guilds offer services in dietary planning, family relations problems, education and leisure hour activities. It provides creches for children of the farmwives, delivers packed boxes of necessary additional foods and establishes consumer Co-operatives. All these activities are carefully followed up and problems arising are tackled immediately. The Cooperatives are offering extensive help in the saving schemes and guiding the housewives to budget her income. In connection with consumer goods the Housewives are provided with constant forms and special consumer goods form. The lists are analysed and the products supplied at fair prices through the Co-operatives.

At the city the Prefectural levels the training centres are provided for needed activities as food preparation, child care, flower arrangement, tailoring, needle craft and dancing.

H O N G K O N G

The Co-operative Movement in Hong Kong operates through its cooperative education section of the Co-operative Department and through its Fisheries Department. Fisheries Cooperatives and Vegetable Marketing Cooperatives are the most active organisations. Co-operative activities are, however, also carried out by some women's organisations in the districts. Such activities take on the form of hostels for women, nurseries, schools, recreation clubs, cooking classes and lectures.

The Co-operative Movement as such has not yet been included in the programmes of any women's organisation in Hongkong. The representative delegate at the women's seminar in Delhi felt strongly that the women's organisations should be brought into closer touch with the Co-operative Movement. The delegate was of the opinion that finance for joint projects would not be of much problem as the women's organisations are well-financed and because there are signs of interest on the part of those organisations. The social structure of Hongkong points out that there may be no specific reason to establish separate women's co-operatives, but this needs further exploration.

S I N G A P O R E

The Singapore Co-operative Department is a part of the Ministry of National Development and directly under the Primary Production Department. It functions through its Fisheries, Agriculture, Veterinary and Rural Development Co-operatives. The outstanding activities affecting the women in Singapore are Housing Cooperatives which plans to extend its activities to the female members of the families living in this area. The students cooperatives at the Nanyang University also has potentialities of expanding its activities to the women students. The Movement **activates** mainly in the urban section of the population.

Due to the fact that the early development of the Co-operative Movement in Singapore was basically meant to provide credit to wage earners and free them from the clutches of the money-lenders, the movement is closely controlled by the Co-operative Societies Department.

The thrift and loan societies extend their activities to the housewives who utilize the service mainly for medical or educational purposes. This extension can provide opportunity for co-ordination with women's organisations for introducing better living programmes and facilities for working women. A high percentage of the female population is working in offices, firms and factories.

M A L A Y A

As in the case of most other regions in South-East Asia the Co-operative Movement in Malaya has developed almost exclusively as a credit movement. The development pattern has been adapted from the Movement in India. It extends itself appreciably in the areas of processing and marketing, farming, consumer, housing, banking and transport co-operatives.

In the case of women as in Hong Kong and Singapore there is little or no development. The Sirimalanga Women's Farm Association is carrying on activities which may be termed cooperative. In the matriarchal society of Malay, women do much of the farming and feel the entire responsibility for their holdings. The association in collaboration with the Agricultural Department is carrying out farm **ex**periments in the growing of vegetables, etc.

In the report presented at the Seminar and subsequent interviews in Malaya it was indicated that women Cooperators now realize the need for education in the theory, principles and practices of Co-operation. In response to this realization, cooperative courses for women are held in various centres throughout the Federation. Some women go to the Cooperative College of Malaya for more intensive courses with a view to leadership in the field.

Lady cooperative officers are now appointed in various regions to develop plans for the expansion of the Cooperative Movement among the women population. Contacts with the women's organisations showed willingness on the part of the women leaders to use the cooperative technique in their approach to the solution of social and economic problems. The expansion of the Movement among the planters show great possibilities. Another area of expansion may be among the wage-earning women in the urban areas.

Concern was shown about the uncoordinated activities of the various women's organisations. A first step might be a central organisation of all women's associations for planning and collaboration.

C E Y L O N

Ceylon's Cooperative Movement is about ten years older than Malaya's. It also began as cooperative credit movement to solve the problems of the debt-ridden peasantry, but it has developed much more rapidly and has reached a large number of people both men and women. The range of cooperative activities is wide, spreading from Banking, Fisheries, Agriculture (special vegetable growings) and marketing, dairies, handloom weavers and small rubber growers to consumers, wholesale and school societies. The cooperative union of Ceylon takes the place of a supervisory body.

The Department of Industries and Rural Development in Ceylon has established industrial units in the villages to promote economic independence and to help people help themselves. Once these organs are established steps are then taken to convert these organisations into cooperatives. In this way weaving cooperatives, tea co-operatives and young farmers' societies are formed.

Independent co-operatives for women are not many. Women, when they have learnt weaving through technical assistance programme of the Industries and Rural Development Department, join a textile weaving cooperative society to obtain their raw material per day and thereby makes an additional income of about Rs.3 per day. One such co-operative society in Kandy has two Government Technicians from the Department and sixteen paid workers by the Co-operative Union. Three hundred primary societies of 15,000 individuals are federated to form the marketing and supply co-operative affiliated to the Union. A number of women are also employed at the headquarters in executive posts.

Individuals have also organised cooperative societies where selected handicraft products are made by men and women together. These co-operatives are extending into small industrial units.

I N D I A

Co-operation in India is an old Movement introduced by the Government for loan purposes to the agricultural producers. The Movement has gained great impetus under the present government's sponsorship. Self-help and co-operation are at the root of all the community development programmes. The programmes of economic and social development are carried out through a network of federated panchayats and co-operative organisations at the village, block and district levels. The panchayats and the co-operatives are planned to supplement each other. Together they are supposed to prepare production programme. The panchayats provide the extension agency and organise supplies and services. The Co-operative Movement provides the credit and also organise the societies through which individual programmes are carried out by the people themselves. At the State level the Co-operative Union takes over the services of supervision, education and expansion.

The panchayat laws in many States make it obligatory that women should be represented in block and district panchayats. There is also provision in all States for the representation on these panchayats, of the Co-operative Movement. In some of the States, societies have been organised specially for women. It cannot, however, be said that women have come into the Co-operative Movement and participated in it to the extent that they should. The types of co-operative societies for women are thrift societies, welfare societies, industrial societies and non-agricultural credit societies. But their members and membership are comparatively small. The States, as part of their campaign for the spread of small scale industries are training women workers who assist in organising industrial cooperatives for women.

As part of its expansion scheme the Cooperative Unions are training educated young women to work with women in the rural and urban areas, towards developing women's co-operatives.

Thrift and Savings Societies

It is reported that there are 626 women's thrift societies with a membership of 18,489 and a working capital of 8.83 lakhs. These are located mainly in rural areas.

Industrial Societies

These societies have been organised for different trades such as soap-making, embroidery, tailoring, spinning, palm leaf work, duree-making, etc. The Government of Punjab maintains separate departmental staff consisting of women to supervise and inspect the working of such women's co-operatives which are 206 in number with a membership of 692 and a working capital of 0.67 lakh rupees.

In Madras the Central Women's Cottage Industrial Co-operative Society is giving work to hundreds of women and marketing their goods. The Madras Handicrafts Marketing Society offers technical assistance in weaving and provides for marketing of goods.

The survey in Calcutta showed much progress by women's organisation in providing training work and education to women. The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association runs a women's co-operative society which is engaged in a varied kind of handicraft production. The women workers produce printed sarees with hand block and Batik work, weaving in the form of waste saree products, rugs and khadi. Training is given in tailoring and embroidery which leads to a diploma in Needle work. In the expansion scheme the co-operative is planning to set up a production centre for greater output and marketing. The women's organisations as the Nari Seva Sangha and the All Bengal Women's Union are also running organisations with much the same activities. There is, however, very little co-ordination with the co-operative movement in Calcutta.

In the State of Bombay very concentrated work is being done to provide work for women on co-operative basis. Attempts have been made to take over kinds of work which could become ancillaries to small industries. A Co-operative Society is producing packaging of excellent quality, giving employment to a number of women. However, this society expressed anxiety for the continued marketing of its goods.

Women's Co-operative Societies are also formed to supply uniforms to organisations as the railways, etc. Such societies seem to be more secure from the business point of view.

The Co-operative Cottage Industries Emporium, a primary women's organisation, markets the products of handicraft workers both co-operative and individual. This co-operative, however, does not deal specifically with women.

Consumer Co-operatives

The consumer co-operatives are being boosted by the Government. Women, however, not come up to this with great force. Of the two such co-operatives visited, one presented great problems of co-ordination with the co-operative organisation. The other is making good business, this is an old establishment cooperative which came into being with Government support for distribution of food rations during the War.

Co-ordination

Much of the Movement among women in community development is undertaken by experienced social workers and women's organisations. Although the plans indicate close co-ordination of work, such co-ordination has not yet been established. The women's voluntary organisations were sceptical of the support and help from the Regional Co-operatives.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, contacts were specifically made in Lahore, Karachi, Dacca and Comilla. The Pakistan Co-operative Movement started alongside of India. After independence the Movement was rather slow. In the recent past, however, the Movement has been re-organised with partial Government support.

The Movement has grown into a dual partnership between the Government and the Co-operative Union. The field work supervisory body is a government organisation. In the West, a co-operative development board which is a semi-government institution plans and offers technical assistance and financial help for schemes that spread over the Agricultural, Industrial and Social fields.

In East Pakistan, a special Research Centre at Comilla village is carrying on a unique research in co-operative living. The project spreads over ten villages and has now established a system to modernise a rural society by the efforts of the community itself. It has created a unique social institutional structure which is to establish social, economic and political stability. Special research is being carried out to change the condition of women in the community of villages by the help of the rural women themselves. Through its Home Development Programme the project offers visual concepts in sanitation, education and dietary. None of these needs are separated they form a part of a whole programme conducted by the illiterate women of the community themselves. The developments of this research project are being keenly watched by sociologists and Co-operators.

The overall pattern of development in the women's sector resembles that of India, though the problems have been slightly different. The women's co-operatives are mostly thrift co-operatives. Industrial and consumer co-operatives are being developed. Attempts are being made to include life improvement programmes in all such societies.

Co-ordination

The women's voluntary organisations showed deep interest when interviewed to use the technique in their development programmes. Some co-ordination already exists; further joint schemes like training, production, marketing and consumers stores are being contemplated.

PART - VSUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONSSummary and Conclusions

The results indicate that in all the countries under study there are national, international, and cooperative agencies to raise the social and economic standards of living. The international organisations help through financing specific projects and supplying technical assistance. The national institutions are organs for utilising the international and national resources. These institutions have long range programmes and also take steps to meet immediate needs. The national institutions are most often specialised agencies, appointed according to the breakdown of administration.

The women's organisations have a wide range of objectives covering the entire field of social and economic life of a community; they sponsor education and health programmes; homes for the destitute and needy. Many have established medical services of specialised nature. They are also meeting the political needs of women and come to the aid of families in times of immediate need. In each of these regions there is one women's organisation that is the leading body by nature of its experience, leadership and accomplishments. The work of most other organisations are mainly localised, or some times of a specialised nature as university women's associations. They are all in one way or other engaged in a number of social welfare activities. These organisations are rendering valuable services to the poor classes of the community, but these services only help to solve problems through outside agencies; and, therefore, tend to make the women dependent on external help. In the developing countries of South-East Asia due to the complexity and wide range of problems it is necessary to awaken the people to their own problems and help them solve these through self-effort. This is a process of education for the masses in a democratic effort, thus preparing the attitudes of men, women and children for further changes contemplated by the governments. It further facilitates the governments to meet the targets of their plans more speedily and venture on new ones. Once the people are receptive to change and are able to take on more responsibility, changes will come automatically and without much loan on the government machinery. The women play an important part in bringing about such change; they are the mothers of the nation and hence play an important role in the building up of habits and attitudes in the family.

The cooperative movement except in Japan and to a very small extent in Ceylon has not so far been able to extend its full benefits to women. There are several reasons for this; firstly, the women in the region of South-East Asia do not participate in the economic life of the community along side of men; secondly, the cooperative movement, except in rare cases, deals with economic problems of people as a community without considering differences of sex and its social implications. A third outstanding reason for the slow growth of the movement among women has been the lack of intelligent women leadership in the cooperatives in these regions have made male dominated who have viewed economic development as either credit alone or sponsorship of schemes in which the participation of women did not play any significant part.

The fourth and the basic reason has been, as discussed in Chapter III, the separation of the social and subjective factors of economic development from the immediate wealth producing factors. The cooperative leaders in the region under study barring Japan have been confined to the narrow view which, therefore, makes the importance of women subordinate in a scheme of economic development. This view may be explained to historic factors which gave rise to the Cooperative Movement in most of the South-East Asian countries, confining the objectives to basically the relief of the farmer from the money-lenders.

All the regions under study need more income per capita to improve standards of living. If Cooperation in these regions can be considered as a means of bringing about subjective change among the people leading to economic activities, it becomes necessary that all agencies of social and economic change should adopt this technique to furthering their objectives. Coordination of activities between the women's organisations and the cooperatives becomes imminent as the women's organisations have the specific aim of improving the status of women in the community. The women's organisations have the willingness and the leadership for work; the cooperative is a method for sustained work. Coordination is of utmost importance at all levels - at the national, regional and local levels. Such coordination may also become necessary at the international level for sharing of experiences and human resources.

Recommendations

With the above conclusion, it is recommended that the cooperative agencies in the regions under study develop greater collaboration with the women's organisations at all levels of work in each region. Such coordination would need to begin at the national level and expand to the local region. A first step before coordination can be attempted is orientation and publicity - any programme is appreciated on its merits. In some of the regions of South-East Asia the past reputation of the cooperative needs to be changed to a more dynamic one. This needs publicity followed by orientation. The most effective means of introduction is visual aids through the media of:

- i. Cinema
- ii. Slides lectures
- iii. Pamphlets
- iv. Posters
- v. Visits to well-organised cooperatives.

The above work must fall on the shoulders of the cooperative unions and colleges. Such material is, however, rarely available in the regions under consideration. The International Cooperative Alliance and countries well-advanced in cooperatives may take on them the preparation of such materials which may be supplemented by local means. Special cooperative weeks which would publicise the movement through the above means and display of products should be arranged to draw women's organisations into active participation. In a scheme of cooperative education it is essential that such aids be closely related to the life of the people.

In this context, reference may be made to publications of the Ie-No-Hikari Association of Japan. Translation of some and adaptation of other from among these may be a quick way to get started.

A. Coordination at the National Level

1. At the national level, a federation of all women's organisations may be formed for coordination of activities and joint planning. Desire to do so was expressed very strongly in Malaya, Singapore, Pakistan and India.
2. The cooperative movement would need to broaden its objectives and scope of activities in order to include the wider task of improving the standard of living and raising the status of people in the community as a whole. The cooperative movement should consider all persons as potential members and invest in the efforts which might bring the members of the community nearer to cooperative activity. The cooperative movement in some countries as the consumer cooperatives in Japan has already broadened its objectives and has included a number of socio-economic programmes in its work which cover groups of people outside the membership of the cooperative movement. It is observed that whenever the cooperative movement has realised this as its aim it has found it to its advantage to collaborate with women's and other organisations whose aims and objectives correspond to those of the cooperative movement. If this is accepted as a basis for the future work of the cooperative movement in South-East Asia, it will be incumbent on it to help strengthen the activities of the women's organisations as in Japan by helping them to raise funds in order to secure personnel for running ~~the cooperative~~ societies sponsored by them. In order to strengthen contacts with women's organisations for the general benefit of women, the cooperative unions or departments should expand their staff by creating posts of women officers. The cooperative movement would also need to extend its training and supervisory services for women cooperatives. The qualifications needed for such work should be a social work degree and training in several handicraft skills, with additional training in cooperation. These officers must be kept alive and alert through in-service education.
3. It was noted at the ICA Seminar in New Delhi that the most effective method of getting women to participate in common activities will be the organisation of joint educational programmes. The common educational activity will enable women to associate themselves more closely with the cooperative activity.
4. Joint conferences is another important field in which joint activities could be planned. The ICA Seminar referred to earlier enabled members from both organisations to discuss problems of mutual interest. Joint programmes in the economic, social and educational fields could be explored and planned.
5. The seminar also pointed out that joint consultative bodies for improving cooperative trade services would help the cooperatives to make their work more effective and give the women organisers more confidence to launch a programme. These services could provide market research and surveys for the use of workers.

6. Joint training centres for workers in skills and methods was strongly recommended by both women's organisations and the cooperatives. Both concerns find it difficult to introduce new economic activities within their projects for lack of specialised technical help. This has been felt more strongly in places where the cottage industries were planned to be introduced as a means of additional income. Besides the skills intensive help is needed in the techniques of salesmanship and business administration. Students of art institutions might be useful people for this purpose but more than the demands of highly trained people are too high for the cooperatives, therefore, services of such people may be obtained at the national training level. The training institutions should also provide education in conducting discussions, parliamentary procedures and conduct of meetings. Elementary accounting is also an essential need.

7. An intensive theory-cum-practical course should be introduced in the requirements of training of social workers. In some places this already exists but the cooperative movement has had little or no connection with it. Since material for such courses is rather ineffective, efforts may be made to develop more adequate material with the help of the ICA and more experienced countries.

8. Research centres for problems of rural and urban women may be jointly planned by the women's organisations and the cooperatives. Joint research may be carried on in problems of food, sanitation, labour, family relations and home budget etc. This method has been successfully tried in Japan and forms the backbone of all their programmes. These research centres could also prepare hand-books to illustrate specific projects for the use of the field workers. Government and educational institutions may find it useful to collaborate in such research work.

9. Leadership training programmes may be jointly sponsored. Such programmes should include both economic and social factors in a community. It should further give training in cooperative methods and principles.

10. Recommendations 5,6,8, and 9 present need for further coordination with the government agencies. Wherever the departments of Industries, Social Welfare, Schools of Art and Designs, Schools of Administration and Social Science Research Centres exist, the right contact would necessarily bring technical help and also financial assistance. For any such collaboration careful planning and approach should be jointly done at the national level by the women's organisations and the cooperatives.

11. A further attempt may be made to draw in the industrialists. At the national level and also the local levels contacts with certain industries may bring employment for women of the nature that can be cooperativized. Examples of this may be uniform for workers or assembling of goods, packaging or production of parts of goods that lend themselves to home industries.

B. Regional and Local Levels

1. The regional women's organisations and the cooperatives could follow a programme of a very much similar nature, as at the national level. It is, however, important at the regional level to strictly follow the programme drawn up at the national level, further substantiating this with programmes according to the needs of the region.
2. The regional unified programmes should carry out regional surveys and make these available at the national level.
3. At the regional level programmes will be detailed, and the necessary services mentioned in the recommendations for the national level will be provided for the use of the local workers.
4. At the local level the voluntary workers, the cooperative workers and workers from the Government Departments and the welfare worker and industrial supervisors should form a joint council for joint programming and drawing on each others resources.
5. The women's organisations at the local level may form the local women's guilds drawing its membership from the local women in the low and middle income groups. These guilds should work closely with the cooperative movement and have representation on the cooperative board of directors.
6. The cooperatives should assist in tackling financial resources and substantiate this with loans from the cooperative banks for the initiation and progress of schemes. They need further to arrange for technical help and supervision.
7. The cooperative and women's organisations should seek the help of international organisations in both the fields so as to bring about the realisation of their common objectives.

C. Role of the ICA

1. The International Cooperative Alliance should help to further the collaboration between the cooperatives and the United Nations and its agencies particularly UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, and WHO in each region in the field of women's activities.
2. With the establishment of the Regional Office for South-East Asia and its intended extension of services for women, the ICA will need to form women's consultative service in each region. Such a body may be created in collaboration with the national services. The consultative cell should be in a position to offer advisory services regarding problems and organisation of cooperatives.

3. A very important service that the ICA can render towards greater collaboration is through making available research and publications in the field of women's cooperatives. For this the services of women staff will be needed at the Regional headquarters.

4. Seminars of the nature of the 1962 Seminar should be further sponsored. These seminars should rotate in the various countries of South-East Asia.

Suggestions for some Joint Programming

Procedures that have to do with the development of a programme are concerned chiefly with objectives, problems and solutions. Once these are defined with the help of specific data the second procedure is making the plan of work which has to do mainly with method.

In accordance, therefore, with the preceding recommendations the original germination of an idea comes from the national level. For instance, the idea of consumer cooperatives, industrial cooperatives or multi-purpose cooperatives. There are many existing programmes in all the countries under study that could be reorganised on cooperative basis. At the regional level the cooperatives in coordination with the federation of women's organisations will discuss the needs of the region, collect data and specify the local needs. To do this, contacts will be made with the local welfare worker, the health workers, or any other local worker or agency whose objectives are the same. This data will be discussed in a joint committee, which will suggest solutions, and a line of attack. This committee will prepare materials for the implementation of the programme and develop contacts with other regional agencies in order to tap sources both human and financial.

This much material having been prepared the local bodies will be contacted for selection of locality, programming and implementation.

The joint planning body at the local level will initiate a programme with the help of the regional committee. It is at the local level where the workers will be concerned with actual methods and procedures. The initial stages of all programming is much the same which may be listed as:

I. Getting Ready - First Stage

1. Building up contacts.
2. Selecting techniques to get the women concerned to meet
3. Using techniques to make them want to meet again.
4. Getting them to talk of common problems.
5. Helping them to decide what needs to be done about the problems
6. Helping them to suggest solutions and to tap own resources that could help in the solution of the problem.

II. Getting Ready - Second Stage

1. The representatives of the women's organisation with the help of the cooperative representatives and other workers, in the field will prepare a scheme, laying down objectives, plan of procedure and possible sources of technical and financial assistance.
2. The scheme will be presented to the group concerned. Whenever possible men may be drawn into the planning in order to obtain their support.
3. Possible means of raising funds will be discussed with the group and a minimum capital will be decided on.
4. Possible expansion of programme will be viewed with the group.
5. A copy of the scheme will be sent to the regional committee.

III. Operational Plan

1. If the women's organisation has resources, part of the capital may be raised through this source. The social welfare institutions (§) will be approached and wherever possible the group must substantiate from own sources. The need and means of capital raising will depend on local situation and differ in the various countries under study.
2. A project will be selected which will bring in ready income, however, small this may be. At this stage further investments may be needed.
3. At every stage the group will discuss the next step in capital raising.
4. When the minimum capital has been raised, the project will start and a meeting place will be decided upon.
5. During all these meetings representatives from the group will be made to share responsibilities of whatever nature they are capable of.

Procedures of putting/programme into action will differ /the according to the nature of the scheme. Suggestions are given here for three different kinds of cooperatives.

§ Japan	Ministry of Social Welfare
Hong Kong	Social Welfare Department
Singapore	Ministry of National Development
Malaya	Department of Social Welfare
Ceylon	Department of Industrial and Rural Development
India	Department of Social Welfare
Pakistan	Social Welfare Council

IV. Putting the Programme into Action

1. An Industrial Cooperative

- i. Assuming that the craft chosen has already roots in the community, a craft or crafts will be chosen.
- ii. A representative member of the group will be selected as leader. She will be given further training at the joint training centre. The group should pay her a nominal sum to hold continued interest. If the craft is chosen on the basis of availability of raw material or marketability then outside help will be essential.
- iii. The sales of the first lot of production is going to present difficulties. If these articles are not of standard quality they may be disposed of at nominal price through the women's organisations or the cooperative should tackle the available services of marketing. Quality goods are not difficult to market, individual shops, emporium or firms may offer to act as sales agents. Regular orders may thus be obtained. The selling prices must be kept reasonable for developing a market demand.
- iv. A group of women thus got together after the initial preparation may find themselves in a position to form a business concern. The workers with the group will have taken ample steps in developing honesty of labour, punctuality, group working and business attitudes. Once progress has set the group is in a position to register as a body and feel confident to ask for loans and other assistance for expansion of programme.
- v. Book-keeping and accountancy is a necessary step in an industrial cooperative. Workers or members may be able to do this with the help of the cooperative staff or business manager employed.
- vi. Marketing of goods is the most complicated step of the process. It must be remembered that quality which means material, finishes, cleanliness and design is the first pre-requisite. Regular production is the second essential.

For the first process market study and popularization of goods is necessary. This is a job that the joint consultative bodies at the national and regional levels can perform. The part of the women's organisation in this process is very important.

The second requisite of production depends on the administration of the production centre. The group should specialise on special items and develop the production to excellent quality. One way of ensuring this is by streamlining the work. If the product can be worked on in parts, more groups may be organised to specialise on single parts, such groups forming ancillaries to the central cooperative. This work will be faster and supervision simpler.

- vii. When business has set joint planning of finances is taken with the cooperative group. In planning allocations must be made for supply of raw material (often this may be obtained against orders, thus not involving finances) through own resources or a secondary society. Allocations are also necessary for depreciation stock and expansion of the workshop. If business allows, a certain percentage may be put aside for introducing better living programmes.
- viii. The better living programmes which develop improved home living (health, education, habits, hygiene and recreation) need to become an important development of any cooperative programme in South-East Asia. Help for such programmes may be obtained from Government and other social sources. (further details will be discussed under better living societies).
- ix. Sharing of profits is often decided on the merit of the project. In some cases members could wait to reap the profits until they have established the business on sound basis. In other cases it might be essential to give a dividend almost immediately in order to secure the interest and continued participation of the members.
- x. Evaluation or programme must be a regular process which should be shared with the regional services.

The above is just a broad outline of possible steps in the development and organisation of an industrial cooperative. Detailed instructions need to be developed for use by the women's organisations and the cooperatives.

2. Consumer Cooperatives

A consumer cooperative aims to provide members with high quality merchandise under the cooperative label. The cooperative tries to educate members to buy wisely. Women being the potential consumers such as cooperative is a very suitable activity for women. Although women in South-East Asia are reckoned as wise buyers, perhaps because of limited money resources, they are not always able to obtain the best for their money due to malpractices in commodity labelling, pricing and availability. More often they are not even aware of this. The organisation of a consumer cooperative is complex, whereas the members may obtain better buys from their money, the prices of commodities tend to rise in comparison to what they may be accustomed to buy. Hence member education must become a necessary part of any such programme. Members must receive continuous education through discussions, demonstrations and publications, so that they are able to appreciate the services of a consumer store and develop loyalty to the society.

- i. The first step in the operational plan of a consumer cooperative is the assessment of needs. Consumer needs are listed and calculations made as to quantity, quality and prices and availability of commodities under the existing system.
- ii. The advantages of a joint venture are discussed. The group may be convinced through educational media that should be made available by the joint research and consultative services at the regional level.
- iii. After the preliminary assessment, market research will be needed to find out where quality goods may be found. The comparative prices and means of obtaining and stocking such goods are explored.
- iv. Capital in this case is not very difficult as this is a regular expenditure of the consumer but ready money may be a problem. Means of raising this would depend on the particular case.
- v. Purchases are thus made. In rural areas of South-East Asia much of this may be obtained from the families themselves as they are the producers also. Capital is needed for items as oil, soaps, spices etc.
- vi. A start is often possible without the requirement of premises. As stocks are not piled, immediate disposal is possible from a temporary premises.
- vii. Once the advantages of the scheme become apparent to the members, more may join in, and capital may become available at the beginning of the month or season. In a consumer cooperative large membership is necessary.
- viii. Sources for financial support may now be tackled for establishing a consumer store.
- ix. Attempt must be made to involve the consumer in the production of consumer goods, e.g. vegetables, poultry, eggs, clean and ground spices, soap, dried and canned goods etc. This expansion would provide occupation for members and perhaps monetary returns. Such activities can be expanded into production cooperative as auxiliaries to the consumer cooperatives.
- x. Packaging and sales at the store are other activities in which the members can take direct responsibility, thereby developing the feeling of usefulness and also concern regarding business.
- xi. At every step careful business management is an essential. In a consumer cooperative foresight and judgement are necessary. Careful account keeping is a must. In the initial stages members of the women's organisations with the help of cooperative workers could maintain the business proceedings but is always good to have a paid manager as soon as possible, with proper supervision from the members themselves and the organisers.

- xii. In the business of a consumer cooperative, it is essential to include consumer education. This may be done through quality labelling and information of market trends and prices. Such activity can at a later stage be expanded into food committees and dietary education.
- xiii. Habits of sanitary living can be further inculcated through food packaging and presentation.
- xiv. Such shops can also introduce self-service to develop honesty and discipline in group living.
- xv. In an urban area the consumer store can expand cafeteria services, book shops, laundries and educational and recreational services for working women.

A consumer cooperative not only provides good quality commodities at fair prices to the members, but also helps to keep prices of food low, check adulteration and misleading advertisement and labelling. In Japan the main stream of consumer movement is represented by commodity testing and information services for the enlightenment of general consumers. With the help of the Japanese Housewives Association, the Movement has expanded into study groups on special commodities, study of contents and ingredients through users' tastes and consumer opinion survey.

3. Better Living Society

A better living society combines in itself many services; it has one or many economic projects; it also provides social services for improving living conditions of its members. It may also venture into educational and medical services. In some countries such services have developed as part of the activities of other kinds of cooperatives or have developed as cooperatives on their own account.

- i. Like the other two societies, analysis of needs and possible lines of attack will form the primary step.
- ii. Establishment of funds would be the next step involving the same procedures as in the other two cases.
- iii. If in a rural community or any other backward group, representatives of the group in whom the group has confidence, and one who has by age or popularity established good relations with her community, would be selected. If there are many such groups all the leaders would be brought to a common centre. At the centre, these leaders will be given new skills and, new ways of doing things and better ways of living e.g. use of sanitation, disposal of garbage, better facilities for cooking or child rearing methods.

- iv. The representative will go back to her community. There she will be helped to establish and practise the learning in her own situation. Since she is a person of influence in the community, she will then, by her own example, persuade others to follow the same.
- v. When one step has matured a new learning will be introduced. Such a scheme will need constant supervision and careful follow-up.
- vi. Regular meetings of the members of the society to appraise the situation is very essential.
- vii. When some essential changes have taken root, other activities may be introduced which might be economic or even recreational. The situation should decide what activities would develop group cohesiveness.

It is often easy to draw the men in such schemes and develop further into activities concerning youth and children. Better living societies are a very healthy development of the old thrift societies.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COOPERATIVES

Name of the Organisation

A. Structure

1. When was the Movement started?
2. What is the present membership?
3. What are the membership fees?
4. What is the pattern of your administrative set up?
5. How is the organisation financed?
6. How much Government support do you get, in what manner?
7. What public support do you get; what is the nature of this support?

B. Programme

8. What are the objectives of the organisation?
9. What have been the most popular activities in the last five years and why?
10. Name some other activities.
11. a. What are the most successful projects of the organisation in the field?
b. What do you think accounts for their success?
12. a. What are some of the less successful projects of the organisation in the field?
b. What do you think accounts for their lack of success?
13. What approaches do you adopt?
 - a. to contact the women population
 - b. to develop their interest in your project
 - c. for continued participation

14. In your opinion to what extent your agency is meeting the socio-economic needs of the people with whom you have contacts?

C. Coordination

15. Do you have contacts with other organisations? What is the nature of the contacts?
16. What contacts does your organisation maintain with the Cooperative Movement at different levels?
17. How do you think the women's cooperatives can become a source of profitable avenue for your organisation?
18. What are the various other welfare agencies, both governmental and private to meet the needs of women and children?
19. What do you think are some of the basic needs of the women population of your community?
20. Your personal comments and suggestions.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

Name of the Organisation

A. Structure

1. When was the movement started?
2. What is the present membership?
3. What are the membership fees?
4. What is the pattern of your administrative set up?
5. How is the organisation financed?
6. How much government support do you get; in what manner?
7. What public support do you get; what is the nature of this support?

B. Programme

8. What are the objectives of the organisation?
9. What have been the most popular activities in the last five years and why?
10. Name some other activities.
11. a. What are the most successful projects of the organisation in the field?
b. What do you think accounts for their success?
12. a. What are some of the less successful projects of the organisation in the field?
b. What do you think accounts for their lack of success?
13. What approaches do you adopt?
 - a. to contact with women population.
 - b. to develop their interest in your project.
 - c. for continued participation.

14. In your opinion to what extent your agency is meeting the socio-economic needs of the people with whom you have contacts?

c. Coordination

15. Do you have contacts with other organisations? What is the nature of these contacts?

16. How do you think your association could collaborate with the women's organisations in your country?

17. Which of the women's organisation would you like to work with more closely and why?

18. What are the activities in which collaboration is more easily possible?



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APPENDIX "C"

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Name and address of the institution</u>	<u>Person interviewed</u>
1.	Business and Professional Women's Association 13 Kaminoge Setagayaku, Tokyo.	Mr Kiyoki Nishi
2.	Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo.	U Isuda
3.	Central Hospital of Ibaragi Prefecture (Internal Medicine) Tomboe, Ibaragi Prefecture, Japan	Kyuji Koga, M.D. Vice-Director
4.	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, 5-1 Chome, Otemachi, Chiyodaku, Tokyo.	E Kato, Sec.Chief Home Management Hampei Naruge Shiro Futagami Tsuneo Nanba, Chief International Dept.
5.	Consumers' Cooperative Union of Japan (Mrs Nagatani is also Manager of Women's department of Nadakobe Consumers Cooperative Society, Sumiyoshi, Higashinada, Kobe).	Mrs Haruko Nagatani Director
6.	Consumer Cooperative (Shipyard Workers), Tokyo.	
7.	Democratic Women's Association, Tokyo.	
8.	Ie-No.Hikari Association, 1 Funakawara Cho, Tokyo.	Mr Ichiro Miyabe, President. Mr Masao Sugata, Executive Director Mr Motohiro Ito, Assistant Director Mr Shigeru Otsuka Cul.Div. Chief
9.	Institute of Handicrafts	
10.	International Labour Organisation, Tokyo	Dr Takeshi Takahashi Research Officer
11.	Ishikawajima Consumer Coop. Society, Tokyo.	

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| 12. Japan Cat Association, 710, 2-chome Shimotakaido, Suginami-ku, Tokyo. | Mrs. Cheiko Yamamoto,
Director |
| 13. Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union, Rokinkaikan, 5-2 chome, Shiba Tamuracho Minatoku, Tokyo. | Mrs Masao Ohya
Mr S Nakabayashi
Vice President |
| 14. Japanese Cooperative Trading Co Ltd | Takehige Ishiguro
President |
| 15. Japanese Housewives Associations, Housewives Hall, 15-6 chome, Chiyodaku Tokyo. | Mrs Mumeo Oku, Member
House of Councillors |
| 16. Japan Women's University, Tokyo | Mr Michi |
| 17. Ministry of Agriculture (Home Living Improvement Institute, Tokyo. | Mrs Yamamoto. |
| 18. Ministry of Education (Women's Social Education Branch) Tokyo | Mrs Chizuko Izumoi
Programme Specialist

Miss Hamako Shio, Chief |
| 19. Ministry of Labour (Women's and Minors Bureau) Tokyo. | Mrs Nobuko Tomita Takahashi
Chief, Women's Section |
| 20. Ministry of Social Welfare | |
| 21. National Federation of Regional Women's Organisation, Tokyo. | Mrs Yamataka and
Mrs Satoko Tanka |
| 22. Productivity Research Institute, Japan. Productivity Centre, 5 chome, Ginza, Chuoku, Tokyo. | Hiroko Kageyama
Researcher |
| 23. Mita Agricultural Cooperative, Oyama City | K Tanami, President
M Matsumoto |
| 24. Peace Corps | |
| 25. Rural Women's Association | |
| 26. Takanawaza Agricultural Cooperative | Mr Komatsu, Mrs Suzuki |
| 27. T.I.815, 2-chome, Daita, Setagaya, Tokyo. | |
| 28. Trade Union of Women, Sojyo, Tokyo. | |
| 29. Tokyo Metropolitan Sub-Work Handicraft Institution | |

30. Women's Guild Mrs H Shinabara, Chairman
Mrs N Saito, Vice-Chairman
31. Women's Institute
32. Women's Democratic Club Mrs Fiko Trugasri
Mrs Hiroko Izawa

HONG KONG

33. Department of Cooperative Development and Fisheries, Connaught Road C, Hong Kong Mr P Bishop, Asst. Commissioner
Mr K.W.J. Topley, Commissioner
34. Hong Kong Women's Association Miss Lee
35. Social Welfare Department Mrs Lee

CEYLON

36. Cooperative Federation of Ceylon 455 Galle Road, Colombo.3 Mr A.P. Jayasekara,
General Secretary
37. Cooperative School, Kandy.
38. Cooperative Society - Tea Marketing, Kandy.
39. Cooperative Textile Society, Kandy.
40. Department of Coop Development, Colombo.
41. Department of Industry and Rural Development
42. Leather Workers' Coop Society
43. Lanka Mahila Samiti, Colombo. Miss Nilmani Perara, Secretary
Mrs De Mal
Mrs Rajapakse
44. All-Ceylon Women's Conference, 19 Union Place, Colombo.
45. Weavers' Cooperative Society, Kandy.

SINGAPORE

46. Chinese Women's Association
47. Department of Social Welfare (Community Development Project) Mrs Lee

48. International Women's Association
49. Muslim Women's Association
50. Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association
635, East Coast Road, Singapore.15
51. Singapore Cooperative Union Ltd, Singapore.
52. Singapore Cooperative Housing Society
53. University Students' Cooperative
54. Wanita Singapura, 32 Lorong N, Singapore.15

Miss Susy Chia, Secretary

MALAYA

56. Bagan Pinang women Weavers Centre
57. Cooperative Union of Malaya Ltd, Kuala Lumpur
58. National Association of Women's Institute,
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur.
59. Department of Cooperative Development,
Swettenham Road, Kuala Lumpur.
60. Pan Pacific Women's Association, Kuala Lumpur
61. Pembangunan Luar-Bandar, Bagan Pirang, Seramban

Yang Berhormat Puan
Hon.Councillor

Zianon Bte Hashim
Agri.Assistant

62. Rida Training Centre, Port Dickson
63. Women's Farmers Association, Remban.
64. Women's International Club, Kuala Lumpur.
65. Y.W.C.A., Kuala Lumpur.

INDIA

Bombay

66. Graha Udyog Sahakari Mandal
67. Gujarat Stree Sahakari Mandal, V.P.Road, Bombay.4
68. Sarvodaya Women's Sahakari Society, Sikkanagar and Tardeo
69. Seva Sadan

Mrs Jaishri Raiji

Calcutta

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| 70. All Bengal Women's Union Home | |
| 71. All India Women's Conference,
55/5, Purandass Road, Calcutta.29 | |
| 72. Bengal Home Industries | Mrs Kalpana Sen |
| 73. Handloom and Handicraft Department Emporium | |
| 74. Khadi Gramudyog Bhavan | |
| 75. Nari Seva Sangha | |
| 76. Sarojini Braiding Women's Cooperative Society | |
| 77. Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association | Mrs Priti Sen |
| 78. West Bengal Cooperative Union | |
| 79. Women's Cooperative Organisations | Mrs Mira Chowdhary |
| 80. Ministry of Cooperation | Minister |

Madras

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| 81. Cooperative Weaving Wholesale Society | Mr Saliha |
| 82. Department of Industries and Commerce | Mr P.K.Ramanan,
Assistant Director |
| 83. Guild of Services (Central) - Sewa Samajam | Mrs Clubwala Jadev |
| 84. Nazerathpet Women's Coop, Poondamalli, Madras | |
| 85. Readymade Garments Cooperative Society | |
| 86. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union | Dr P. Natesan |
| 87. Women's Industrial Society | Mrs M.N.Srinivasan |

PAKISTANDacca

88. All Pakistan Women's Association
89. Asimpur Ladies Club Multipurpose Society
90. Business and Career Women's Association
91. Comilla Cooperative Project Miss Roshanara
92. Council of Social Welfare
93. Dacca Ladies' Club
94. Department of Cooperative Societies, Dacca
95. Dacca Mahila Samiti
96. East Pakistan Cooperative Union, Dacca
97. East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation
98. Friends' Centre
99. Gandaria Mahila Samiti
100. Girl Guides' Association
101. Kakole Ladies' Club
102. Housewives' Association
103. Narinda Mahila Samiti
104. Purana Paltan Women's Club
105. Shishuraksha Mahila samiti
106. Wari Mahila Samiti
107. Women's Voluntary Association

Karachi

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| 108. | All Pakistan Women's Association | Mrs Tazeen Faridi |
| 109. | Cooperative Department | Mr Ghiasuddin Ahmed
Mr Shirazi |
| 110. | Coordinating Council | Mr Nagori |
| 111. | Council of Social Welfare | Mr Akbar |
| 112. | Ladies Cooperative Society | Begum Musharraf |

Lahore

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| 113. | All Pakistan Women's Association | Mr Mehboob
Mrs Anwar Amin
Mrs Shaukat Ali |
| 114. | West Pakistan Cooperative Union | Mr Muhammad Asad |
| 115. | Council of Social Welfare | Dr Ataullah |
| 116. | Department of Social Work | Dr (Miss) Riffat Rashid |

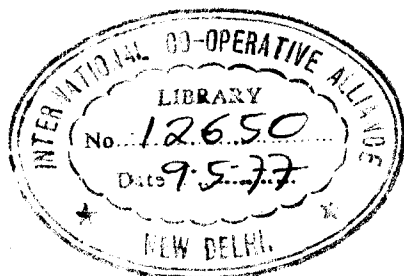
REPORT

of the Seminar on

"THE CONTRIBUTION OF COOPERATION TO THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN"

held at New Delhi, India, 19th November to

2nd December 1962



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

11 Upper Grosvenor Street
London W,1.
(United Kingdom)

Regional Office and Education Centre
6 Canning Road, New Delhi.1. (India)

REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON CONTRIBUTION OF COOPERATION
TO THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN held at New Delhi from
November 19th to December 2, 1962

Introduction

The International Cooperative Alliance with the support of UNESCO, organised at the India International Centre, New Delhi (India), a Seminar on the Contribution of Cooperation to the Emancipation of Women from November 19 to December 2, 1962. The Seminar, which was attended by women delegates from India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Japan, was inaugurated by Mr S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation, Government of India. Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, President, National Cooperative Union of India, also spoke on the occasion. Delegates from ILO, UNESCO, ICFTU and the Association of Country Women of the World also attended.

The participants from South-East Asia represented women's organisations and Cooperative Organisations and Departments respectively. The programme of the Seminar included lectures by a number of prominent persons in the social and economic field. The lecturers also included a number of women social workers. Considerable time was allotted in the programme to group discussions and committee work.

The purpose of the Seminar was to study the role which Cooperation could play in raising the social and economic status of women by liberating them from the large number of handicaps which they at present suffer in several countries of South-East Asia. Thus, the educational needs of women were discussed and the contribution of the Cooperative Movement, with its emphasis on education, was outlined; Producers' Cooperative Societies through which women could secure gainful employment, were considered; and the role of Consumer Cooperation in improving the household economy was analysed.

The Seminar discussed the changing status of women in the countries of South-East Asia. The various measures to raise the social status of women as part of the socio-economic development programmes were mentioned. The Seminar also discussed the position of women in rural areas and noted that there was not significant change in their position in the recent past. As most of the countries of South-East Asia have a still predominantly rural population the problem concerning women was viewed in the Seminar against the background of rural setting.

Role of Education

The role of education in changing the status of women was also discussed. The countries of South-East Asia, for various reasons, are most concerned with problems of economic development. While this has resulted in great emphasis being laid on problems on capital formation and creation of large-scale and basic industries, the investment in human capital such as investment in education does not seem to have received adequate attention. No doubt, many countries are trying to provide increased educa-

tional opportunities to the people, but women, partly because of the historical lag, have continued to work under a series of handicaps.

In 1952 the International Bureau of Education published a report on access of women to education which was based on the replies from the Ministries of Education of 47 countries which affirmed the equality of men and women with regard to the right of education. It is necessary for the countries of South-East Asia to concretize this affirmation and offer every facility for women to educate themselves for leading a life of equality and justice.

SECTION - I

Role of the Cooperative Movement

The Cooperative Movement, with its emphasis on self-help and democratic values, has played a vital role in the social and economic development of Western Countries during the last 100 years. An impressive array of activities ranging from agricultural development to consumer protection have been undertaken by the Cooperative Societies. In developing countries with predominantly agricultural economy, the Cooperative Movement is playing an important role in raising the standard of living of the rural population. The cooperative technique is being increasingly used for mobilising the small savings in the villages and helping people to secure credit on reasonable terms. By creating Cooperative Organisations the villages are helped to evolve a democratic pattern of leadership and to provide a frame-work through which citizens, by active participation, could regulate their socio-economic life.

Against the background of an agricultural economy, the Cooperatives are being called upon to shoulder responsibilities for providing credit on reasonable terms, offering marketing and processing facilities for the produce of the farmers, raising the farm output and generally helping the farmer and the artisan in the rural communities to increase his income and thereby to help him lead a better life. Lack of borrowing facilities and dependence on money lenders has had a very degenerating effect on the lives of the farmers. The emergence of the Cooperatives on the rural scene has helped to reduce the dependence of the farmers on money-lenders and has given them an opportunity to stand on their own. The experience of running a Cooperative Organisation has also created greater confidence among the rural population.

The Cooperative Movement is continuously enlarging its scope of activities. The farmers are at present able to use the Cooperative Agency for marketing goods to his best advantage. He is also able to utilise the storage and transport facilities offered by the Society. In this way it is now possible for many farmers to avoid the exploitation of long chain of middlemen who intervene between him and the consumers.

Agricultural Cooperatives

The Agricultural Cooperative Movement generally ensures increased benefits to the farmers, offers protection from exploitation by money-lenders, secures for him the various facilities offered by Government and other Cooperative Agencies and thus enables the farming communities to raise their standard of living.

Small-Scale Industries

The Cooperative Movement has also made an important contribution in the field of small-scale and cottage industries. The labour intensive character of small-scale industries has helped to expand the employment potential and has naturally added to the income of the women who individually were not able to take measures for improving their economic life. The Cooperative Societies in small-scale industries have in many cases successfully helped the members to overcome the difficulties and the problem of securing adequate finance for running the organisation. Raw-material for producing goods and adequate facilities for providing marketing outlets for the goods produced by the small-scale industries are also offered. In a few cases links have also been established between the small-scale industries and some large-scale industries by which the small-scale industries' cooperatives provide ancillary goods and implements to the large-scale industry.

In most of the countries of South-East Asia, Governments and National Cooperative Organisations have embarked upon programmes of re-organising small-scale industries on cooperative basis. Financial and other help is also given in addition to technical guidance provided under various schemes drawn up for them.

Cooperative Housing

Another field in which cooperative activity has assumed great importance in recent years is in respect of housing. Housing cooperatives in different parts of the world have made a significant contribution to the improvement of housing standards. People who are not able to build houses at great costs are now able to combine themselves into Housing Cooperative Societies and find out the methods by which they could be able to solve their housing problems on a self-help basis. Most of the countries of South-East Asia are still suffering from lack of proper housing conditions. The problem is more acute in cities which are growing very fast and at a pace at which it has not been possible for the authorities to develop housing for the increasing population. The Cooperative Housing Movement has the potentiality of becoming the chief instrument for implementation of social housing policies badly needed in any of the developing countries. The Housing Cooperatives can help in rationalising methods for housing production. When they grow up in size, these Societies can also contribute a great deal to the development of housing by continuous study and research into the utilisation of dwellings, the maintenance of buildings, etc. Thus the Cooperative Movement is in a position to help in bringing down the cost of housing while at the same time is able to raise its quality, and the most important thing is that it has been able to provide housing accommodation to people who otherwise would not have been able to secure their own houses in urban communities.

Consumers Cooperative Societies

Most of the countries of South-East Asia are now experiencing rapid industrialisation and the consequential reorganisation of socio-economic structure. The influx of people in large numbers from the villages to the neighbouring towns and cities is causing serious problems not only in the field of housing but also regarding distribution of food and other essential items. The people in big cities and commercial towns are not able to meet their requirements of consumer articles on a satisfactory basis. They are surrounded by a chain of profit-making merchants and greedy money-lenders. Also the commodities they buy from most of the shops are of poor quality and detrimental to their health. The solution to this problem was provided by the Rochdale Pioneers who organised their first Consumer Cooperative Store in 1844 at Rochdale, England. Since then the Consumer Cooperative Organisations have played an important role in effectively combating widespread malpractices of adulteration, incorrect weighments and other fields of consumer exploitation by traders all over the world. In a number of countries the Cooperative Movement has helped in stabilising prices of consumer articles and in influencing the practices of the distributive trade to the best advantage of the consumers. In some countries the Movement has also helped in breaking monopolies and arresting the increasing influence of restrictive practices by manufacturers. The Consumers Cooperatives when efficiently organised are a valuable asset in the efforts to integrate the urban consumers into self-relying communities. Their ability to meet their own requirements through self-help reduces the widespread influence of traders in urban communities.

SECTION - II

Women and Cooperation

The Cooperative Movement in many countries has attracted participation of women in the various fields of its activities. Women have associated themselves by forming Women's Cooperative Guilds, Housewives Associations or similar organisations which serve as ancillary units to the Cooperative Societies in their respective areas. The Women's Organisations are given help by Cooperative Societies to enable them to carry on their activities. However, the main income of these organisations comes from membership fee and donations. The Women's Guilds serve as a forum for the discussion of cooperative problems especially problems related to the working of their Society and distribution of commodities through the shops run by Cooperative Organisations. The Guilds serve as useful communication channels for conveying to the Societies the general reactions of consumers and the trend towards the demand of commodities by the consumers. The Cooperatives are also able to influence consumers through the work of the Cooperative Women's Guilds.

Apart from the problems connected with the Cooperative Movement, the Women's Guilds have also played a very useful rôle in bringing about social reforms in some countries. Women's Cooperative Guilds in United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and Japan have contributed a great deal in enlisting the support of women to Cooperative activities. In America separate Women's Guilds are not organised.

The Women's Organisations in South-East Asia have not yet been associated with cooperative activity on a large scale except in countries like Japan where the Cooperative Movement has made considerable advance. There exists, therefore, a wide field which can be explored by Women's Organisations for developing cooperative activities which are of special interest to women. The Women's Organisations in South-East Asia are fairly active and they have to their credit many achievements in social and educational fields. There is a growing realisation amongst a few women's organisations of the need for associating themselves with the Cooperative Movement and if persistent efforts are made it should be possible for Women's and Cooperative Organisations to collaborate in many fields in the future. The following could be stated as some of the more important fields through which women can effectively participate in cooperative activity.

1. Agricultural Cooperatives

The Rural Cooperative Societies have now been trying to ensure increased social and economic benefits by enlarging their sphere of activity. Efforts to improve the social conditions of the rural families are necessary to create among the rural families a greater awareness of the need for changing gradually the way of life which has been followed by them for centuries without change. The Women's Organisations can play a very effective role in educating the families in modern methods of maintaining health standards and cleanliness in their households. There is also a very urgent need for improving the quality of food that is at present consumed by rural families.

Most of the rural families in South-East Asia will be found to be indebted to money-lenders. The balancing of the family budget has never been achieved except by a few families who happen to have adequate sources of income from land. It is, therefore, necessary to educate the rural families in family budgeting. This is possible only if the women's organisations undertake the work of educating the women in family budgeting. Also the rural population in most of these countries is still by and large illiterate. The efforts of the State and voluntary organisations to educate this population are inadequate. As the urgent need of the hour, is to give basic education to rural families it will be of great help if Women's Organisations undertake the work of educating women and making them capable of following the trends of the modern world. The Rural Cooperatives are also gradually becoming the training centres for the members and if Women's Organisations are able to bring about participation of women in local cooperative activity it will help the women to become citizens and effective partners in the democratic society.

2. Small-Scale and Cottage Industries

In urban areas women are coming forward in large numbers to take up responsibilities in the fields of education, health and secretarial spheres. Another important field in which women are gradually coming forward is in the case of small-scale and cottage industries. A number of organisations responsible for the development of cottage and small-scale industries are helping women's organisations to interest themselves in the sphere of cottage and small-scale industries. Attempts are also being made to form independent cooperative organisations for women for the development of cottage industries.

The field of cottage industries is especially suited for women as it offers a means by which particular skills and aptitudes of women could be utilised. Most of the cottage industries and handicrafts can be operated without establishing a workshop which would call for large investments. It is possible for the Cooperative Store to allocate work to its members who can complete the job in their spare time and at home. The small-scale industries also provide very useful source of income to women for supplementing the income of their families, and for providing themselves with occupations to be undertaken in their spare time. The Women's Cooperative Organisations can arrange for the marketing of small-scale industries products through emporias and stores run by them in important towns and commercial cities. A few successful examples in this field show that given proper assistance and help, Women's Organisations are able to organise effectively the sale of these products. The Societies in this field also serve as an excellent training ground for fuller participation of women in the social and economic life of the community.

3. Consumers' Cooperation

The consumers in South-East Asia are not organised so as to encourage the modern trends in the distributive trade of consumer articles. The Women's part in this organisation is very small. The consumers therefore are not able to check the widespread adulteration of food stuffs which is practised by traders on a large scale. Consumers stores in these countries, barring Japan also suffer from lack of cleanliness and hygienic conditions endangering the health of the consumers. In the absence of a better distribution system they have to rely on the traders for meeting their day to day requirements. Although, attempts are being made to encourage the acceptance of standards for consumer articles, few commodities have so far been covered and that too only in a few countries of the region. By and large, the type and quality of the article is the sweet pleasure of the manufacturer and attractive packages and misleading advertisements, which are common, are able to persuade the customer to buy unreliable articles at high prices. As most of the consumers are women, consumer cooperatives have a natural field of work which is of obvious interest to women. One of the important reasons for failure of consumers cooperatives in South-East Asia is the absence of efficient management and loyalty of members. If however women are associated with consumers cooperatives in large numbers, there is a better chance of enlisting loyalty of members and developing able leadership from among women members. The field of consumers cooperation provides women with an unique opportunity by which they can organise themselves as consumers for distribution, wholesaling and ultimately for production of consumer goods with a view to provide themselves with the best possible quality of goods at the least possible prices.

Experiences of advanced Consumer Cooperative Movements in non-Asian countries have shown that the Consumer Cooperative Movement has the capacity of rapidly becoming one of the most effective means by which the economic and social standards of households could be raised. In the countries of South-East Asia also, the pace of urbanisation is increasing. With this the problem of securing consumer articles is becoming more and more serious and the need for developing strong consumers organisations is being felt very acutely. Active participation by women in cooperative activity will help to solve a number of these problems.

4. Cooperative Housing

The pace of urbanisation has also made the problem of housing very acute. A few successful examples of organising families into Housing Cooperative Societies have helped to raise the standard of housing in many countries. The Housing Cooperatives do not complete their work by building houses. As a matter of fact construction of houses is the beginning of a long and happy community life within the frame-work of the Cooperative Organisation. The Women's Organisations can play a very useful role by undertaking activities in the field of education and health of the families living in the Cooperative Housing areas. Apart from ensuring standards of hygiene and educating the members and their families, women's organisations can also help in promoting a very happy community life in the areas covered by Cooperative Housing.

It is, therefore, clear that the Cooperative Organisations provide a rich field through which Women's Organisations could make a substantial contribution towards raising the social and economic status of their members. The next Section deals with the possible areas of collaborating between Cooperative Movements and Women's Organisations.

SECTION- III

Collaboration between Women's Organisations and Cooperative Societies

In several countries of South East Asia, Women's Organisations are at present engaged in a number of welfare and educational activities. They are rendering valuable services to the poorer classes of the community through welfare work. However, it is difficult continuously to provide for women who do not have income of their own. Also, philanthropic help does not encourage women to take their own professions and occupations. Hence it is necessary to persuade Women's Organisations to utilise the Cooperative Agencies for organising women into useful economic activities and exploit the rich potential of the Cooperative Movement. The Women's Organisations have as one of their objectives the socio-economic upliftment of women apart from the immediate objective of providing them useful occupations. The Cooperative Movement can help women to raise their status in the Society and equip them to stand on their own in case of emergency.

Thus, there is an urgent need for bringing about effective collaboration between Women's Organisations and the Cooperative Societies. There is a vast field in which both the Organisations can play jointly the economic activities for their members and also coordinating the activities undertaken with mutual efforts. Encouragement will have to be given to leaders working in the Women's Organisations to associate themselves with the working of Cooperative Societies. The Women's Organisations can also explore the possibility of organising new Cooperative Societies and encouraging their members to enlist as members of the Cooperative Society.

Coordination at all levels

The coordination of activities between the Women's Organisations and the Cooperative Organisations will have to be at all levels. The contact and coordination between these two organisations at the national level is of utmost importance. Only such a coordination can enable their branches and affiliates to collaborate and ensure an increasing participation of women in cooperative activity. Collaboration at all these levels will also enable both the organisations to combine their efforts and supplement the programmes undertaken by each other. The National Organisations will be in a better position to plan the programmes for participation of women in cooperative activity. It will then be convenient for the branches and their affiliates to coordinate at their level without undertaking planning and programming independently.

Joint Education Programme

The most effective method of bringing about participation in common activity will be the organising of joint educational and training programmes. The common educational activity will enable women to associate themselves more closely with the cooperative activity. It will also be easier for women's organisations to organise cooperative societies if women members have already known about the Cooperative Movement. Another important field in which joint activities could be planned is the organisation of Conference by both the Women's Organisations and the Cooperative Societies. Joint Conferences will enable members from both the organisations to discuss problems of mutual interest and work out joint programmes in the economic, social and educational fields. Joint consultative bodies for improving cooperative trade and services will help the Cooperatives to make their work more effective. The two organisations can also support common projects and work out schemes for helping the members according to the circumstances prevailing in each country and the region.

Leadership Training

For bringing about an effective participation of women in the cooperative activities on a large scale, it is necessary to train women leaders who can provide able leadership for cooperative societies in their day-to-day activities. One of the reasons why women are not equal partners in cooperative activity is the absence of good leadership amongst women especially amongst women members of Cooperative Societies. Given good leadership, the women will have an opportunity of participating in the cooperative activity effectively and on a wider scale. Apart from the leadership training the women need to be trained into various methods and techniques which are required to be known for persons engaged in democratic activity. Hence it will be necessary for women to be trained in the art of conducting discussions, parliamentary procedures and conduct of meetings. Such training would help to improve the efficiency of both the cooperative organisations and the women's organisations.

Need for Funds

One of the major handicaps in the field of cooperative activity organised by women is the inadequacy of funds for various programmes undertaken by their organisations. A number of cooperative projects are required to be given up by women's organisations for want of adequate funds. Ways and means, therefore, will have to be found by which financial support to women's organisations could be given for their cooperative activities. For this it may be necessary for the Cooperative Movement to broaden its definition and objectives. Although the Cooperative Movement has mainly to help its members in raising their standard of living, the Movement also cannot ignore the wider task of improving the standard of living, and raising the status of the people in the community as a whole. The Cooperative Movement should consider all persons as potential members and invest in the efforts which might bring the members of the community nearer to cooperative activity. Cooperative Movements in some countries have already broadened their objectives and have included a number of socio-economic programmes in their work which cover groups of people outside the membership of the Cooperative Movement. It is observed that whenever Cooperative Organisations have realised this as their aim they have found it to their advantage to collaborate with women's and other organisations whose aims and objectives correspond to those of the Cooperative Movement. If this is accepted as a basis for the future work of the Cooperative Movement it will be incumbent on it to help strengthen the activities of the Women's Organisations by helping them to raise funds to secure personnel for running the Cooperative Societies sponsored by them. The Cooperative Movement should realise that the strengthening of the women's activities will ultimately help strengthen the Cooperative Movement itself. The potentialities of using the Women's Organisations for increasing cooperative activity are great and the Cooperative Movement must now seriously consider their work with the Women's Organisations and try to help them in whatever way possible for the mutual benefit of both.

The Women's Organisations should also realise that effective collaboration with the Cooperative Movement will be of great advantage to them. They have much to gain by closer collaboration with Cooperative Organisations and effective participation in their economic and educational programmes. Women's Organisations must consider Cooperative Movement as one of the most important instruments through which the task of bettering the conditions of their members could be achieved. It will not be an exaggeration to say that perhaps the Cooperative Movement is one of the few agencies which provide means by which women cannot only achieve their economic goals but also assert themselves efficiently in the social as also in the civic life of the community. It is therefore necessary for the women's organisations to support the Cooperative activity financially and otherwise wherever possible.

International Collaboration

As regards International collaboration the representatives of the International Agencies present at the Seminar were of the opinion that "the consideration which the International Cooperative Alliance, the United Nations and its Agencies, particularly UNESCO, ILO, and FAO as well as other non-governmental organisations concerned with the promotion of Cooperation are giving to the economic and social interest of women is greatly appreciated. And, the furtherance and intensification of such action is of utmost importance to the women of the whole world."

Conclusion

There is thus in field after field of cooperative activity a large scope for increased collaboration between Cooperative Organisations and Women's Organisations. Such collaboration is based upon the broad similarity of aims and objectives. Both types of organisations strive to raise social and economic standards of living; firstly amongst their own members, but by inference in the community as a whole as well. The first Seminar of Asian Women dealing with the question of how to achieve more active participation by women in the Cooperative Movement has attempted to explore some of the avenues by which a closer relationship between Women's Organisations and the Cooperative Movement can be brought about.

The Seminar was the first of its kind organised in South East Asia. It has helped in creating an understanding about some of the problem areas existing in this field. The work begun at this Seminar could be led to fruitful results if seminars of a similar kind are organised at national levels in various countries of South East Asia. The Cooperative and Women's Organisations should seek the help of the International Organisations working in both the fields so as to bring about the realisation of their common objectives.

ICA EDUCATION CENTRE
6 Canning Road
New Delhi.1. (India)

Seminar on the Contribution of Cooperation to the Emancipation of
Women held at New Delhi from November 19th - December 1st, 1962.

P r o g r a m m e

November 19, Monday

10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Welcome and introduction to ICA activities.
Inaugural address, Statement on the objects,
programme and working methods of the Seminar.

(Tea Break : 11.00 - 11.20 a.m.)

2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Introductory Session : Presentation of Background
Papers

(Tea break : 3.30 - 3.50 p.m.)

November 20, Tuesday

PART - I

9.30 - 10.15 a.m.

The Changing Economic and Social Order and its
Significance for Women

Introduced by : Dr I.P. Desai
Department of Sociology
University of Baroda

10.35 - 11.20 p.m.

" : Mrs. Satnam Mahmud
West Pakistan Cooperative Union
Lahore.

(Tea Break : 10.15 - 10.35 a.m.)

11.20 - 12.30 p.m.

Questions and Observations

2.30 - 5.00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

(Tea Break : 3.30 - 3.50 p.m.)

November 21, Wednesday

9.30 - 10.15 a.m.

Educational Needs of Women in the Developing
Countries

Introduced by : Dr. (Mrs) Sharayu Bal
Principal
S.N.D.T. College
Poona.4.

November 21 (Contd.)

- 10.35 - 11.20 a.m. Introduced by : Mrs. M. Shaikat Ali
Assistant Director
Public Relations Department
West Pakistan Cooperative Development Board
- (Tea Break : 10.15 - 10.35 a.m.)
- 11.20 - 12.30 p.m. Questions and Observations
- 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Group Discussions
- 4.15 - 5.30 p.m. Plenary on Part I : Group Reports and Conclusions
- P A R T II

November 22, Thursday

- 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. Role of Cooperation in Social and Eco.Dev.
- Introduced by : Dr S.K. Saxena
Regional Officer
International Cooperative Alliance
New Delhi
- 10.30 - 11.00 a.m. Questions and Observations
- (Tea break : 11.00 - 11.20 a.m.)
- 11.20 - 12.30 p.m. Panel Discussion
- 2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Visits to Cooperative Societies
(Indian Cooperative Union)

November 23, Friday

- 9.30 - 10.15 a.m. Position of Women in Rural Communities
- Introduced by : Dr. (Miss) M. Cornelius
Annamalai University
ANNAMALAI NAGAR, Madras State
- 10.35 - 11.20 a.m. Agricultural Cooperation and Rural Household Economy.
- Introduced by : Mr S.S. Puri
Dy. Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ministry of Comm. Development
and Cooperation,
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
- (Tea Break : 10.15 - 10.35 a.m.)

November 23 (Contd.)

11.20 - 12.30 p.m. Questions and Observations

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Group Discussions

November 24, Saturday

9.30 - 10.15 a.m. Women and Cottage Industries

Introduced by : Mrs. Shiv Rao
Director
Indian Cooperative Union
New Delhi.

10.35 - 11.20 a.m. " Mrs. Khali Umar
West Pakistan Cooperative Union
Lahore.

(Tea break : 10.15 - 10.35 a.m.)

November 25, Sunday: Excursion to Agra

November 26, Monday.

9.30 - 10.15 a.m. Standards of living. The need for Consumer
Enlightenment and Protection

Introduced by : Mrs. Mieko Katsube
Japanese Housewives' Association
Tokyo.

10.35 - 11.20 a.m. " Mrs. Jayavati A. Kaji
40.A. Ridge Road
Malabar Hills, Bombay.

(Tea Break : 10.15 - 10.35 a.m.)

11.20 - 12.30 a.m. Questions and Observations

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Panel discussions. Cooperative Distribution - Its
Role in the Defence of Consumers' Interests.

(Tea break : 4.00 - 4.20 p.m.)

November 27, Tuesday

9.30 - 12.30 p.m. Group discussions

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Plenary on Part II. Group reports and conclusions

(Tea break : 4.00 - 4.20 p.m.)

PART : III

November 28, Wednesday

9.30 - 10.30 a.m. Women's Participation in the Cooperative Movement:
Value of Women's Cooperative Societies
Introduced by : Miss C.F. Polley
General Secretary
International Cooperative Alliance

Tea break 10.30 - 10.50 a.m.

10.50 - 12.30 p.m. Questions and observations.

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Visits to Historical Places in Delhi.

November 29, Thursday

10.00 a.m. to
12.0' Clock Panel discussions. Cooperation from the stand point
of other women's movements.

Tea break 11.00 - 11.20 a.m.

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Group discussions

November 30, Friday

9.30 - 12.30 p.m. Plenary on Part III, Group reports and conclusions.

Tea break 11.00 - 11.20 a.m.

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Problems of Collaboration : National, Regional
and International. Panel discussions.

Tea break : 4.00 - 4.20 p.m.

December 1, Saturday

9.30 - 12.30 p.m. Summary and Recommendations

Tea break : 11.00 - 11.20 a.m.

2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Final Plenary Meeting. Concluding Address.

Tea break 4.00 - 4.20 p.m.

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New Delhi.1.

SEMINAR ON
CONTRIBUTION OF COOPERATION TO THE EMANCI-
PATION OF WOMEN : held at New Delhi from Nov-
ember 19th to December 1st, 1962

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