

Summaries of articles

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Femmes et développement - mythes, réalités, changements

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

INTRODUCTION

For Women, Another Development

Huguette Dagenais

Before presenting the contributions of this issue, the introduction underlines the characteristics of feminist research that make it an essential instrument for increasing knowledge pertaining to women and development. In spite of existing contradictions among women's situations around the world, the author reiterates a call for an international feminist cooperation based on common interests and suggests some research topics for the future.

Women and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Andrée Michel

This article demystifies the concept of development and the productivist economic development model, particularly in relation to agricultural and industrial production and to statistics concerning women's work and households. The author concludes that it is essential to change unidimensional development thinking to take into account from the beginning the victims of this type of development among which women are the most numerous.

Domestic Production as a Second Workday for Haitian Women

Mireille Neptune Anglade

This article examines the place occupied by domestic production in women's lives in rural and urban Haiti and its relationship to their work in the labour market, analyzing both types of production as accomplished in one location and in two different ones. Domestic production is considered here under three aspects : the specific conditions of procreation, the relationship between types of unions and childcare, and household work per se.

Women, Development and Ideology : a Case in Mexico

Marie France Labrecque

In 1971, a Federal Law of Agrarian Reform put forward the creation of Agrarian and Industrial Units for Women (UAIM). It has taken almost ten years for this development programme to take off. The formulation of the Law, and the way in which the programme was applied by civil servants (male and female) of the ministries show that it was marked by male domination from its very conception. The data illustrating this phenomenon was collected in the rural part of Northern Yucatan and allows us to discuss institutionnalized male domination.

From Relative Autonomy to Dependency : Malay Women and Development

Marie-Andrée Couillard

This paper aims to show the importance of the State, and of the ideology which it promotes with regards to women in society, in the definition of the place which women should occupy in national development. A brief description of men-women relation among Malay villagers before the intervention of the State allows us to clearly locate the goals of current policies : to counter the relative autonomy of individuals, and more specifically women, transforming them into « Queens of the House » relying on their husbands for their subsistence and for their integration into society. A critical analysis of a project especially aimed at women shows the ambiguity and the contradictions underlying the discourse of the State, but also that of many international agencies for development.

Inuit Women, Development Theory and Gender Categories

Hélène Guay

This article is based on an ongoing research project on a Fourth-World society, the Inuit (Eskimo) society of the Canadian Arctic. The author shows that the development models which have been elaborated for the Third-World cannot be applied as they are to this type of society. In addition, because of the Inuit cultural phenomena of eponymy and inversed gender socialization, the theories on the integration of women into development do not correspond to Inuit women's lives.

Women and Development : The Initiatives of Some Donor Agencies

Eva Rathgeber

This paper examines the initiatives of a selection of bilateral, multilateral and private donor agencies with respect to the support they have given to the integration of women into development. The paper describes not only some of the projects which have been supported by the agencies but also in-house activities undertaken to ensure that staff members become sensitized to the need to and the desirability of involving greater numbers of women in their projects. The paper shows that while a large number of agencies now recognize the importance of the role of women in development, there still exists a necessity for more information about the nature of the social, economic and political roles of women in their own societies and for greater cooperation and sharing of such information among donor agencies.

MATCH International Center

Cynthia King, Lucie Bazinet et Sharon Sholzberg-Gray

The authors present a brief history of MATCH, created in 1976, the first world nongovernmental organization (NGO) to be involved exclusively with women. They explain its new orientations based on strategic needs of women as well as its

mode of financing. Finally, they present some examples of current projects in the Third-World which receive MATCH support.

The Evolution of Women's Role in Development in Africa : the Involvement of CIFAD (Comité international des femmes africaines pour le développement).

Jeannine Bugain

This article presents the historical determinants and the role played by the family, the State and financial institutions concerning the situation of African women. It then discusses CIFAD's objectives, functioning and some of its projects.

Cinquième Monde, a Feminist Collective for International Solidarity

Sylvie Desautels

The author presents the origins and objectives of Cinquième Monde. She explains its organization and its activities in Québec with women from the Third-World. She also emphasizes the links between Cinquième Monde and Québec feminist movement.