Women, Law, and Development Workbook

by
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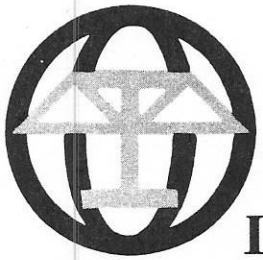

Women, Law and Development
La Mujer, El Derecho y El Desarrollo
Les Femmes, Le Droit, Et Le Développement

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Introduction

In July of 1985, the United Nations will convene a World Conference in Nairobi Kenya to review and appraise the achievements of the "UN DECADE FOR WOMEN" in the areas of equality, development, and peace, and to formulate forward-looking strategies in these areas for the next period. Among the Conference-related activities planned for non-governmental organizations, the Forum on Women, Law, and Development (WLD)--which is being facilitated by OEF International--will contribute to these goals by surfacing, analyzing, and sharing strategies related to equality and development that have been used by Third World women. It will be a living contribution to the "agenda" of the Decade: discovering ways to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women!

This "workbook" was designed, therefore, to facilitate a process of critical analysis on issues related to the topic of **WOMEN, LAW, and DEVELOPMENT.** It was written specifically to provide a framework for preparing the papers that will form the basis for discussion and dialogue at the WLD Forum--that is, for the case studies on strategies that Third World women have used to remove legal constraints placed on them.

Briefly, the workbook contains :

--an overview of the background, the objectives, and rationale for the Forum,

--key concepts, issues, and definitions, and

--guidelines for preparing the case studies.

A word of explanation, however, is in order. The content of the workbook is a result of an initial dialogue among numerous lawyers, sociologists and other academics, community educators, paralegals, and grassroots activists from Asia, Africa and Latin America about their experiences in working to raise the status of women in their countries. Over the last few months Margaret Schuler, the WLD Program Director has traveled to Asia, Africa and Latin America to initiate this dialogue with them. Her discussions revealed a wide range of interests, perspectives, approaches and levels of participation. The basic proposition of the workbook, then, is to promote critical dialogue among those involved at various levels in these activities. It proposes to offer some guidance in sorting out the differences and the similarities that exist within this somewhat nebulous "field" of practice. It does this by:

CATEGORIZING, SYSTEMATIZING,
AND LISTING relevant

--issues,
--activities
--influential factors, etc. that will

PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR ANALYSIS.

It does NOT, however, assess the value of the various approaches--**that assessment is for you, the participants to do. This workbook is merely a tool, a framework, for beginning this process.**

We invite everyone (women and men) with interest or experience in this field to participate in the WLD process and to contribute to the dialogue and the analysis of the issues. We suggest that the workbook be used as a tool for group or organizational dialogue to further clarify and articulate the valuable learnings that result from the collective experiences of all participants, whatever their role.

Finally, we hope the WLD dialogue at the international level will contribute to increased understanding about structures and processes which exclude women from participation in development and about those structures and processes which promote true participation.

Elise Fiber Smith

Elise Fiber Smith
Executive Director
OEF International

PART I:

ABOUT THE WOMEN, LAW, AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Law plays a critical role in regulating the levels of participation by women in development processes.

Development is essentially a process of allocating and utilizing resources for the social and economic benefit of society. Unfortunately, the net result of many development processes in the Third World today is the political and economic advancement of certain groups and the margination or exclusion of others. This is accomplished with the support and mediation of the law, which in the development process, is an instrument of regulation and control. It functions to promote or inhibit access to resources, primarily economic (land, jobs, credit, and other goods and services) and political (participation and power over the allocation or administration of economic and social resources). It accomplishes this through one or a combination of mechanisms:

--through the formulation of LAWS and POLICIES that are aligned toward the benefit of some and the burden of others;

--through the arbitrary or selective APPLICATION of laws or policies

--through ATTITUDES and BEHAVIORS of people which promote and condone the existence of inequitable laws and uneven compliance. (This may take the form of a conscious acceptance of the discriminatory laws and practices or it may take the form of a lack of understanding and awareness about the intent and procedures of the the law. The result is the same.)

Women comprise one major social sector which is systematically excluded through these mechanisms from full economic and political participation in the production and benefits of development .

However, it is important to note that although the law is a critical instrument in contributing to this situation--by regulating control over and share of resources--**the law in itself is not the root cause of women's exclusion from these processes.** The nature of the **underlying factors** which create and maintain women's inferior status is a topic of great debate and includes a number of diverse perspectives. For example:

-- a psychological interpretation locates the cause of the problem with the consciousness of women themselves;

-- a cultural explanation blames the structures of patriarchy.

-- a biological explanation sees physical factors as critical; and

-- an economic explanation argues that class divisions based on economic structures is the primary factor in determining women's condition in society.

Yet despite the ideological differences these views represent, increasingly, Third World women are recognizing the fact that they share a common experience of legally sanctioned discrimination or exclusion. Most would agree that:

* it is women who most often bear the brunt of economic and political disadvantage , and

* the law plays a role in this inequity.

Growing awareness about the relationships among the factors "WOMEN," "LAW," and "DEVELOPMENT," has brought about the further realization that as an instrument the law can also <u>serve</u> women. This notion in turn has triggered dynamic and creative collective efforts by Third World women to overcome the constraints placed on them by societal structures and their mechanisms of control--particularly the law. These efforts crystallized into action strategies that utilize the law in some way to reduce constratints and improve their status.

It is this process of clarifying the role of law and potential use of the law as a strategy for raising the social and economic status of women that gave impetus to the the Women, Law, and Development Forum.

OBJECTIVES

Building on the growing recognition of the role of law in development and its effects on women, and acknowledging the wide divergence in approaches, interpretations, programs and strategies, the Forum proposes to further the dialogue about these issues. The specific objectives of the Forum are:

1. To broaden, systematize, and document understandings about:

   --the relationship between the law and the socioeconomic development process as it affects women,

   --the legal mechanisms which maintain women's marginal status, and

   --successful strategies to improve their legal status.

2. To develop a network among Third World women's organizations and agencies which have developed or plan to develop action-oriented programs to promote and improve the legal status of women.

3. To help local women's organizations develop their own action-oriented programs and strategies.

4. To focus world attention on this issue and heighten general awareness about the significance of the legal status of women in the development process.

FOCUS

The two-day conference will be action-oriented and focus on STRATEGIES

In setting these objectives for the WLD Forum our major task becomes one of clarifying the relationship between the law and the social, cultural, and economic structures of society and the way the legal system functions to promote or hinder women's participation in development. To do so we will examine the concerns and actual experiences of Third World women in developing programs and action strategies to raise the legal status of women.

By encouraging women to ask themselves **what they are doing to overcome legal constraints and why they have chosen to do it the way they are doing it,** the WLD Forum proposes to promote critical analysis of the work being done to raise the legal status of women.

In this way, the Forum will serve as:

...a vehicle for identifying, analyzing and sharing strategies to enhance women's economic and political participation by improving their de jure and de facto status.

This dialogue is not something that will happen only at the Forum itself in 1985, but it will begin at the local level, with you now and throughout the preparatory phase. This workbook is a tool for beginning this dialogue through the process of preparing the substance of the WLD Forum.

PARTICIPATION AND PROCESS

1. All organizations interested in participating in the WLD process are invited to prepare a case study. Through the case studies, they will share their analysis of the strategies (successful and unsuccessful)they have used to raise the legal status of women. The case study guidelines are contained in this workbook. These papers are to be submitted by November, 1984.

2. The presentations at the Forum in Nairobi will be selected from these papers. The WLD team, composed of two women from each of the three major regions (i.e., 2 from Asia, 2 from Africa, and 2 from Latin America) will be responsible for the final selection. They will meet in December, 1984 to review the papers and to do the proximate planning for the Forum.

3. The WLD Forum will take place in Nairobi in July of 1985 as part of the NGO Forum. Attendance is open to all who wish to come.

4. Following the Forum, Forum proceedings and strategy papers will be prepared for publication and distribution. This publication will be prepared (translated and edited) by WLD staff.

IN ADDITION:

** All papers submitted will be part of the WLD Documentation Center and will be available for reproduction and distribution in their original form.

** An occasional newsletter will be distributed to all participants in the WLD process starting in October, 1984. This newsletter will link people and organizations, raise issues, share experiences and resources.

** As a result of the Forum process, the structure of continuing linkages among the participants will be established. The form this may take will depend on the interest and interests of the participants.

PART II:

DEVELOPING A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The use of terms can sometimes be a source of confusion, especially when different words are used by people for the same thing, or when the same term is used to denote different things.

"Programs"
"Organizational responses"
"Strategies"
"Collective action"
"Action strategies"
"Experiences"

All of these words have something in common and all of them have been used to describe similar phenomena; yet each has its own nuances of meaning and none is adequate to convey the richness of the list taken as a whole. For example, in certain circles "program" has bureaucratic connotations and is rejected for its association with oppressive institutions. "Strategy," on the other hand, can have military or manipulative overtones. The term "experiences" is concrete and conveys a more humanistic sense of group activity, but can also have a certain passive or reactive sense about it.

Since there will be so many different positions, approaches, perspectives and experiences represented at the Forum, there must be some way of communicating productively. For that reason, it will be important from the beginning to agree on the definitions of certain terms. We have said that the focus of the Forum will be strategies for raising the legal status of women. The following section will clarify what we mean by "strategy" and provide a framework for recognizing the existence of a strategy. The term as we will use it will contain elements of all the above listed words.

DEFINING A "STRATEGY"

--The dictionary defines strategy as:

** ....the science and art of employing the political, economic, and psychological forces of a group to afford the maximum support for adopted policies...

** ...a careful plan or method...

** ...the art of devising or employing plans toward a goal...

The critical words here are:

"group"
"plan"
"goal"

-- Making the definition a little more explicit for our purposes, let us agree to the following:

A STRATEGY--

--has clearly articulated goals and objectives,

--has a series of planned activities (not spontaneous or serendipitous) designed to fulfill these goals,

--is carried out over a period of time in a systematic fashion--not occasionally or sporadically,

--is carried out by a group in a collaboratory and organized fashion.

These characteristics are also implied in the terms: "Program," "Organizational Response," "Collective action," etc. There are some nuances of difference, of course, but for the purposes of our present task, we will use the term STRATEGY to cover all planned, group activity geared toward a specific goal.

academic definitions of "strategy" that are different from our definition. Yet we are also constrained by the need for a functional term that is capable of transcending particular usages. The term "strategy" will, therefore, be our preferred term and (understood as defined above) will be used as synonymous with the concepts of PROGRAM, ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE, etc. According to this definition, then, a " strategy" may be a series of activities carried out over a relatively short period of time for a very specific purpose or it may be a long-term, complex of activities and tasks geared toward achieving a series of goals and objectives. Both types qualify as strategies and both provide the basis for contributing insights and deeper understanding about potentially useful approaches.

DEFINING A "WLD" STRATEGY

What makes an action strategy a "WLD" strategy, is, of course, its "women," "law," and "development" content. Following are our working definitions of these major terms.

- We use **WOMEN** here to delimit the strategies to those which have as a major goal raising the status of women.

- We use the term **LAW** as synonymous with LEGAL SYSTEM, taken here to include not only its written formulations found in constitutions, legislation, policies, regulations, etc., but the practical application of the law and the attitudes and behaviors of the population toward it.

- We use the term **DEVELOPMENT** as the process of generating , allocating, and utilizing resources for the benefit of society.

- We use the term **STRATEGY** to mean all planned group activity geared toward the achievement of some goal

Building on these understandings, we will use the following definition for a WLD strategy:

- A **WLD Strategy** is a series of organized actions that either CHALLENGE or USE the Legal System to benefit women economically, politically, and socially.

Implied in this definition are two polar, but complementary spheres of action in approaching the "law" as a strategy: using it where beneficial or challenging it where detrimental. Challenging the legal system can be accomplished in a number of ways--from consciousness raising to litigation to civil disobedience. Using the legal system also implies multiple possibilities for action, from public education about legal rights to proposing new laws to legal assistance. Somewhere in between--but touching both poles--are the strategies that articulate alternatives to current norms and practice. There is, in fact, an enormous range of activities and approaches that will fit our definition.

REMEMBER**

A WLD Strategy can either...

--USE the Law or
--CHALLENGE the law

STRATEGY DIMENSIONS

The next few pages present some of the key elements which help to locate and organize the range of activities and approaches that are often used in implementing "women, law and development strategies". The WLD Strategy Framework on page 19 presents a synthesis of these ideas and represents a first step in building a comprehensive framework for understanding these strategies in terms of:

-- general categories of strategies,

-- activities and methods, and

-- the issues they address.

ORIENTATION

Strategies are responses to a problem. They tend to emphasize one approach or another depending on how the problem and the best way of solving it are perceived. WLD strategies respond to problems which generally are perceived in one of the following ways:

1. The Laws themselves, (i.e. the **CONTENT** of the Law).

   Here the problem is seen in the law and the way it is formulated. There may be elements lacking in the law, there may be blatant inequality and injustice, or there may be ambiguities that make the law inadequate at least and repressive at worst. With this perception of the problem the emphasis of the strategy is on changing the content of laws and policies, eliminating them or adding new ones.

2. The Institutions which apply the law, (i.e. the **STRUCTURES** of the Legal System.)

   Here the perception of the problem is that of institutions and structures unable to respond to the interests of the people they ought to serve. From this perspective, strategies generally tend to emphasize transformation or creation of more responsive and accountable structures for the administration of justice.

3. Attitudes and behaviors of people, (i.e., the **CULTURE** of the Law.)

   From this perspective, the problem comes from the way people--those who administer it as well as the population in general--have been conditioned to regard the law. This covers a range of issues from acceptance of discriminatory and unjust practice to basic ignorance about the possibilities and the limitations of the law. Where this is the main perception of the problem, strategies generally tend to emphasize the empowerment of women through increased awareness of their rights and their active engagement in the development of resources to defend those rights.

If the perception of the problem is:	then	The Strategy will tend to emphasize:
THE LAW	→	Changing, or abolishing or creating new laws and policies...
STRUCTURES	→	Engaging, using, challenging, changing, Institutions
ATTITUDES/ BEHAVIORS	→	Enabling, Serving, Empowering People

While strategies generally address more than one aspect of a problem, THERE IS USUALLY ONE ASPECT THAT IS PERCEIVED AS DOMINANT. Therefore, STRATEGIES (i.e., the activities that make them up) TEND TO REVOLVE AROUND ONE OF THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM: CONTENT, STRUCTURE OR CULTURE.

REMEMBER**

A WLD Strategy usually focuses on one of the following:

the **CONTENT**
the **STRUCTURES**
the **CULTURE**
of the law.

ISSUES

Another characteristic of WLD strategies is that they focus on one or several issue areas. That is, they do not often target the "status of women" in general as an objective. Following is a list of the most common issues for which WLD strategies are developed.

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES	Equality Human Rights Civil Rights Political Rights
ECONOMIC ISSUES	Credit Ownership & Control of Property Inheritance
LABOR ISSUES	Wages Working conditions Maternity Benefits Social Entitlements Opportunities for Employment Protective Legislation
FAMILY RELATIONS	Marriage Divorce Child Custody & Guardianship Reproduction
HEALTH	Health Entitlements Birth control Abortion
VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION	Rape Other forms of violence against women Prostitution Pornography

REMEMBER**

A WLD Strategy can be aimed at confronting constraints in any of the following areas:

BASIC RIGHTS
FAMILY RELATIONS
ECONOMIC ISSUES
LABOR ISSUES
HEALTH
VIOLENCE

METHODS

A strategy that aims at raising the status of women by using or confronting the law includes not only formal legal remedies and methods, but political ones as well.

For example, effecting desired changes in legislation--if this is the concern--usually requires an organized, conscious constituency, able to articulate grievances and exert influence. The tasks of building this constituency and exerting pressure are political methods. The technical work of drafting the new legislation and building persuasive arguments for it are legal. The work done around enforcing legal and social rights might also include a combination of legal and political methods.

REMEMBER**

WLD Strategy Methods include both
--Formal **LEGAL** Remedies
and
--**POLITICAL** action

As you study the framework, please keep the following in mind:

A WLD Strategy can either:

USE the law,
CHALLENGE the law,
or a combination of both.

A WLD Strategy usually focuses on

the **"CULTURE** of the Law" (attitudes and behavior)

the **STRUCTURES** that administer laws and policies,

the **CONTENT** of the law,

or a combination of all three.

A WLD Strategy can be aimed at confronting constraints in any of the following areas:

CIVIL, POLITICAL and HUMAN RIGHTS

FAMILY RELATIONS

ECONOMIC ISSUES

LABOR ISSUES

HEALTH

VIOLENCE

A WLD Strategy includes methods that are either

"LEGAL" in a formal sense, or

POLITICAL in a practical sense.

THE WLD STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

* FOCUS
* OBJECIVES
* GOAL
* ACTIVITIES
* DESCRIPTIVE TERMS

Note: For purposes of analysis, we have broken down strategies into 4 major categories. However, actual strategies usually combine elements found in 2 or more of these categories.

MAJOR CATEGORIES OF

FOCUS	on "CULTURE"	on "STRUCTURE"
OBJECTIVES	**SENSITIZING WOMEN TO: --their inherent rights --their actual status --the intent and provisions of the laws and policies affecting them --enforcement practices --limitations of the law --the structural sources of powerlessness **DEMYSTIFYING THE LEGAL SYSTEM	**OPENING UP ACCESS TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN ORDER TO: --secure the enjoyment of rights --redress injustices **REPRESENTING, COUNSELING, AND ACTING AS ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN ON SPECIFIC CASES -- INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS
GOAL	**Empowerment of women through increased awareness of their rights and the development of resources to defend them	**An accessible legal system, functional and accountable to those it is meant to serve
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	--Seminars, conferences, and workshops by and for experts --Community education programs on the law --Mass media campaigns (radio, press) --Publication of scholarly works --Dissemination of information through popular literature and art forms: comic books, posters, dance, brochures, theatre, poetry, etc. --Trained activists (promoters, paralegals, counselors, etc.) at the grassroots able to counsel women on their rights and laws affecting them --Additional training of law students and lawyers about women's issues	--Legal Services available to women (especially low-income women) --The use of litigation, focusing on test cases of those with the greatest potential impact --Class action suits --Developing alternative approaches to resolving disputes --Training and use of paralegals, social workers, and psychologists in advocacy skills --Development of self-advocacy skills among beneficiaries
DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	--Consciousness Raising --Legal Education --Legal Literacy	--Legal Advocacy --Legal Aid --Legal Assistance --Legal Services

LD STRATEGIES

on "CONTENT"	on "APPLICATION"
**ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY LAW AND POLICIES **REPLACING OR ADDING NEW, MORE JUST LAWS AND POLICIES	**ASSURING ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS AND POLICIES
**Existence of adequate and just legislation and policies	**Effective use and application of laws and policies meant to benefit women
--Legal and sociological research on current proposed laws and policies --Design of new laws and policies --Lobbying at policy-making levels --Building effective organizations at the grassroots --Public pressure (through a variety of means) on policy-makers and legislators --Collective action and mobilization --Civil disobedience	--Monitoring enforcement at administrative levels --Monitoring enforcement policies in the courts --Systematically documenting discrimination in public and private sectors --Developing arguments and building cases --Building networks and organizing public and private protest mechanisms
--Legal Advocacy --Legal Reform	--Advocacy

CRITICAL FACTORS

The framework presented on the previous page is descriptive and non-evaluative in nature. It is intended as a tool for understanding relationships among components and dimensions of WLD strategies. With this page we introduce a series of factors and conditions that serve as the basis for establishing evaluative criteria. Some are contextual in nature, others are perceptual, but to some degree they all influence or determine:

--the design and specific structure of a strategy, and

--the efficacy, success, validity and value of that strategy.

THEY ARE:

** The socioeconomic and political structures of a given context. These factors can determine the real possibilities for action as well as the possibilities of success. At certain moments some strategies may be inappropriate, at other moments impossible, and at still other moments extremely effective. This factor is among the most critical of all.

** The interface between law and custom--or between state law and customary law. They often interact in ways which make one more favorable to women than the other. It is not always state law, however enlightened, that is the most favorable.

** The concepts of "equality" and "feminism" held by the group doing the strategy. Different views about these issues produce different--sometimes great--variations in the goals to be sought and the strategies to achieve them.

** The value given to the variables of race, sex, and class by the group doing the strategy. How the group views the importance of these factors in creating or contributing to the situation to be overcome will influence the kind of strategies used.

** The way the strategy to raise the legal status of women relates to other efforts and issues of social justice. Not only the choice and timing of the strategy will be affected, but the ultimate value of the strategy will be affected by this factor.

** The methods and abilities of the implementers. The ability to access resources, mobilize people, and articulate arguments and issues all have an effect on the worth of a strategy.

** Economic factors and sources of funding. Who provides the financial support, who controls the funds and the level of funding available can be critical factors.

PART III:
CREATING THE CASE STUDY

In the previous section we set the parameters of the the discussion of WLD Strategies. We did this by offering a conceptual framework which:

--defines strategies in a generic sense,
--classifies them by activity and focus,
--identifies the content of typical WLD strategies, and
--lists critical conditioning factors.

The function of the conceptual framework is to provide some tools for reaching the Forum project goals of:

--exploring the meaning of various strategies,
--assessing their effectiveness and value in their own context, and
--searching for common patterns and broader applications.

This critical assessment will be done by analyzing a range of actual strategies (programs, experiences, etc.) that fit within the parameters of the WLD definitions. Therefore, the Forum methodology specifies the preparation of case studies that critically examine strategies in terms of:

--goals and objectives
--assumptions and underlying rationale
--organization and sequence of activities
--expected results and criteria for success
--participation and levels of engagement.

The case studies will permit us to have a productive interchange of ideas at the Forum. WHILE OTHER TYPES OF PAPERS ARE ALSO WELCOMED, the main agenda of the Forum will be a critical analysis of strategies. The approach is to understand the relationships among the various elements (women, law, development, etc.) through a consideration of specific strategies. (Information about length, format, deadlines, etc. is provided on page 29.)

The following pages offer some help in preparing your case study. There are 3 "steps" suggested in developing it. The first, "Identifying the components of your strategy," is descriptive in nature. The second, "Assessing your strategy" is evaluative in nature. The third, "Writing the case study" organizes the information from the first two for presentation as a case study.

Steps one and two are preparatory to the actual writing of the study. A series of questions are posed for each of these two steps as a GUIDE to discussion. These questions are not identical to the case study content but will provide a starting point for analysis. **They do not have to be written.** They are merely offered to you and your group as an aid. You may use them or not as you wish. Step three, on the other hand, writing the case study, outlines the content and presents a uniform format for the case studies that will be part of the WLD Forum.

Since we are concerned with strategies (or programs) that are designed and implemented by a group or an organization, it would be a richer experience for all, if those involved in the strategy--at every level--have an opportunity to offer their views. In other words, if the strategy reflects the collective energies of a group, then the analysis of the strategy that will be presented in the case study should also reflect the thoughts of a group. Thus, we suggest making this preparation of the case study for the Forum, an occasion for deepening your own collective understanding of your common effort by involving as many as possible in the process.

STEP ONE: IDENTIFYING COMPONENTS OF YOUR STRATEGY

(Please refer to the WLD Strategy Framework, p. 19)

1. What is the major problem you are addressing and in general terms what are you doing about it?

2. Are these activities (of your program, experience, etc.,) a "WLD Strategy according to our definition? (Rf. pp 9-11)

   --Is it the work of a group?
   --Was it systematically planned and designed?
   --Does it include clear goals and activities?
   --Does it aim to improve the status of women?
   --Does it relate to the law in some way?"

3. How does your strategy relate to the "LAW" (Rf. p 12)

   --Does it use the law in some way?
   --Does it challenge the law in some way?
   --Does it pose alternatives to the law in some way?
   --How does it do this?

4. On which issue area does your strategy focus? (Rf. p. 15)

--Human, Civil, Political Rights, etc.
--Family Relations
--Labor Relations
--Economic Issues
--Health Issues
--Violence
--Other

5. What goals or objectives have you set?, i.e. what do you hope to achieve?

6. What activities have you undertaken to achieve your goals? (Rf Framework/activities, p 19)

--educational, consciousness raising
--organizing constituencies, network building
--assistance, legal counseling
--research
--lobbying
--drafting new legislation
--monitoring enforcement
--etc.
--etc.

7. How does your strategy relate to the major components of the legal system we have outlined? (Rf. 13-14) Among these, which is your primary focus and emphasis?

--Attitudes and behaviors (culture)?
--Discriminatory/unjust laws and policies (substance)?
--Practice and application of the law, access to justice (structure)?

8. Is there another focus not covered in the conceptual framework presented here that better describes the nature of your strategy?

9. What kind of methods do you use?

--Formal Legal remedies? Which ones?
--Political methods? Which ones?
--How are they related in your strategy?

STEP TWO: ASSESSING YOUR STRATEGY

1. What is your ASSESSMENT of the "problem"?

   --What is the major problem (or problems) your strategy addresses?

   --Why do you see this as a problem? (What is your analysis of the causes and consequences of the problem?)

   --What changes do you think are needed to really solve this problem?

   --How does your strategy contribute to this?

2. How did the political context influence your strategy?

   --in design and conceptualization
   --in results

3. How did the cultural context influence your strategy?

   --in design and conceptualization
   --in results

4. How did the economic context influence your strategy?

--in design and conceptualization
--in results

5. What other factors influenced your strategy?

--in design and conceptualization
--in results

6. What are the most significant limitations you have encountered in carrying out your strategy?

7. How does your strategy relate to other political movements or efforts toward social justice?

--With whom do you relate or not relate?
--Has this relationship had an effect on the results of the strategy to date?

8. What have you achieved to date with your strategy?

--How do you define "success" in your context?
--How do you know you have been successful?

9. Has your program improved the economic, political or social status of women in your country?

--How?
--How many has it affected?
--How do you know?

10. What lessons have you learned from this experience?

STEP THREE: WRITING THE CASE STUDY

The Framework that follows is designed to work in conjunction with the previous worksheets to assist you and your organization in analyzing your strategy and present your analysis in the form of a case study. There are several major headings representing the principal sections of the case study. The topics they cover are essential to the case study and should appear in the written product. A description of what should be included accompanies each heading. These descriptions are formulated, of necessity, at a somewhat general level. It is up to you to do the analysis and to make the responses concrete and specific.

If there are aspects that have been left out of this framework that you consider important, please feel free to add, or if there are aspects that are totally irrelevant, don't hesitate to ignore them. The intent here is to be a help, not to constrain. Just remember, however, before you eliminate too much, that the framework grew out of a recognized need for structure and common categories if the dialogue is to be productive, and that it can also be productive to look at ideas or perspectives that perhaps you hadn't considered before.

WLD Case Study Instructions

A. The papers should be no longer than 15 pages in length.

B. The papers should be sent to the WLD office in Washington no later than November 30, 1984.

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C. The format the papers should use is the following:

1. Use Cover Page provided on page 35. It includes:

   a. Title of the program or strategy.
   b. Organizations involved as sponsors or participants.
   c. Main Contact Person
   d. Address

2. Attach a one page summary of your study which includes the major ideas you would like to share.

3. The body of the study that follows (15 pages) should follow the seven headings listed below.

CASE STUDY CONTENT

1. **OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGY:**

In this section explain briefly and concisely:
--the problem the strategy addresses;
--the goals and objectives of the strategy;
--the major activities used to achieve the goals.

2. **PROCESS OF THE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT:**

In this section describe:

--where the initiative came from or who started it (e.g. government, grassroots, individual, organization, etc.);

--any significant events (historical, political, economic, etc.,) that contributed to its initiation;

--any significant changes over time in the original concept and what caused the changes.

3. **THE FOCUS OF THE STRATEGY**

In this part explain:

--the focus of your strategy;

--why your approach was selected and the rationale for the particular emphasis you have selected;

--whether you considered any other approach but rejected it, and if so why;

--whether you have plans to incorporate new elements into the strategy and what the determining factors are.

4. **THE MAJOR LEGAL ISSUE AREAS THE STRATEGY ADDRESSES**

In this section explain:

--whether your strategy concentrates on some major legal issue (or issues)--e.g., labor law only, family law and credit, etc.);

--what was the basis of selecting this area over others.

--whether there is something unique about the particular legal issues to be confronted that indicates the use of certain activities over others;

5. **ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE STRATEGY**

In this part include:

--who participates in the strategy activities at what levels of involvement;

--why is the strategy organized in this particular way and what are the determining factors;

6. **RESULTS OF THE STRATEGY TO DATE**

In this section discuss:

--your assessment of the outcomes of the strategy to date;

--whether the strategy has achieved an increased access to resources for women, for which women and in what way;

--whether any evaluation has been done to determine the extent of improvement of the situation the strategy aimed at effecting, and if not on what data you base your assessments;

--whether the results to date are related to the way the strategy was designed or whether some other factors have been more influential in the strategy's outcomes.

7. **MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY**

In this last section please give:

--an assessment of the relative strengths and limitations of the strategy;

--lessons you have learned that might be of use to others attempting to develop or implement a similar strategy;

--any other relevant conclusions you may have drawn and would like to share.

COVER PAGE FOR WLD STRATEGY PAPERS

1. TITLE OF STRATEGY OR PROGRAM:

_____

_____

2. KEY THEME, ISSUE, GROUP, ETC. THE STRATEGY WORKS ON:

_____

_____

3. ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE STRATEGY AS SPONSORS OR PARTICIPANTS:

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. MAIN CONTACT PERSON OR PERSONS:

_____

_____

5. ADDRESS:

_____

_____

_____

_____