

**WOMEN**

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opment women's capabilities and contributions with macro-development issues such as population, the environment, critical poverty, food scarcity, energy and urbanization. This

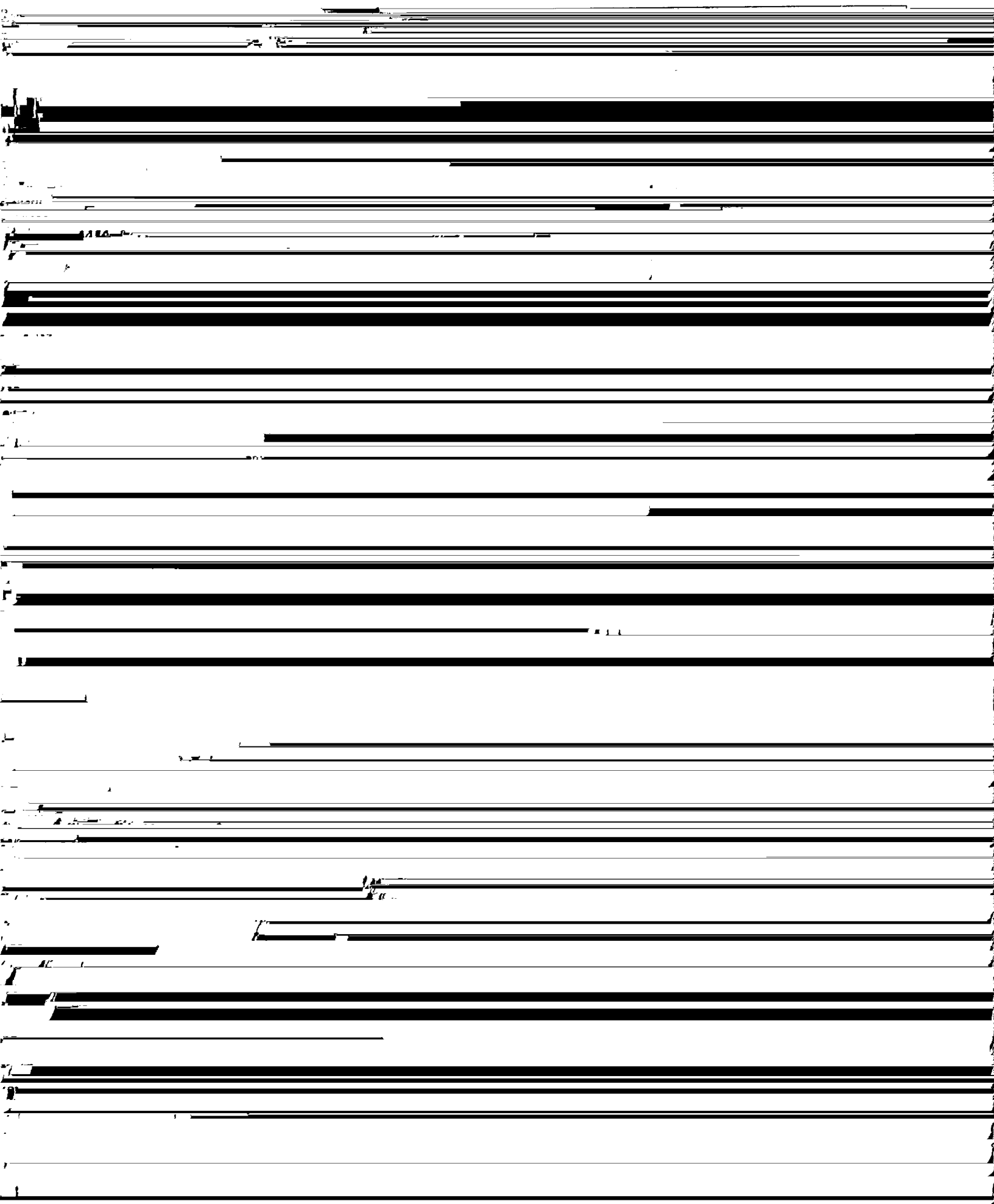
*"The speed with which WID 'took off' in the third world indicated that the ideas behind it corresponded to the needs and interests of a significant number of women (and men), and was not simply a 'foreign' imposition. The 'ease' and rapidity with which both the donor agencies and the African governments adopted WID as a development strategy is problematic. Pre-*

**HISTORICAL  
BACKGROUND**

WID emerged in the early 1970s as a response to the growing evidence that economic and development efforts had

*"Research on women has been dominated by women while the majority of male academics continue with their biases. Recently, however, a few institutions have*

The third and more recent type emphasizes empowerment and includes considerations on global development goals and mechanisms determining the unequal situation of women. This approach should enable women to gain control over their



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### GENDER ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES\*

A survey of gender issues in development strategies is presented below. It includes an assessment of the way in which the social, economic and political position of women in relation to that of men has been addressed in approaches to strategies for development, and of the implications of this for the advancement of women. The treatment of development issues

A discussion of development strategies first has to clarify what is meant by development. A widely adopted approach is to recognize the multidimensional character of development by a focus on growth of national income, plus improvements in social indicators such as decreases in infant mortality and increases in life expectancy and school enrolment. Frequently this is

supplemented by a concern for cation services, and of food, are transformed by individuals into saleable assets like energy and skills. But this is only one dimension of human-resource formation, and it leaves out of account the nurture provided by mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours, care that is not organized through the cash nexus, care that is central to human reproduction.

wives and mothers, they are economically and socially vulnerable on that account. The result is the paradox that while the traditional relations of household life may be oppressive to women, they generally offer more security for women, and attempts at living free of them are risky.

... assessment of develop-

Development strategies are typically evaluated in the following terms: efficiency of resource utilization; savings, investment and growth; human capital formation; poverty and inequality; the role of the State; and participation, democracy and freedom. A gender-aware perspective would broaden the criteria of assessment, not by

*"When women gain access to development resources, their productivity will rise and development will be spurred. When women sit on decision-making bodies and participate in the design of development programmes, these programmes will be more*



unpaid). If paid and unpaid work by women were made visible to

women in sector-focused programmes in ways that address their double responsibilities of

to raise returns on investment and improve the balance of payments. There are signs that

... as the possibility for text of structural adjustment has

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gender relations create to the operation of adjustment measures. These barriers have been analysed in terms of gender-based distortions in markets (a

any development strategy should be centrally concerned with re-production as well as production, and with the way these activities are articulated with one another

sources are depleted - the health, strength and capacities of workers deteriorate. Human resource depletion no more forms an adequate basis for sustainable

there is a need to go beyond this and to restructure both State and market so as to make both more democratic and to facilitate the equal participation of women and

and apply gender-aware approaches.

There is a growing recognition in those agencies that have

ready been set by those who have no particular concern for the advancement of women. This is an important tactic because it is likely to have more short-term

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEMINAR ON

The Seminar on the Integration of Women in Development was intended to review the efforts

women's analysis of what would both meet their basic needs and empower them.

Gender referred to socially constructed and culturally variable roles that women and men played

9. The new theoretical framework should recognize the importance of global economic and

policies. Efforts were needed to demonstrate and illuminate:

vealed the need for a two-level approach to implementing national WID strategies; at the public-policy level and at the

(c) The gender dimension in

tal movement. It was also important for women's advocacy

to increase awareness of women's roles and contributions to

*Coordination among agencies*

important to recognize that mar-  
kets and the private sector might

(e) The use of technology to  
undermine the survival of

methods involving participatory  
action. The introduction of gen-



strategies on women and on gender relations should be undertaken and the possibility of gender-aware alternative development strategies should be investigated. Such efforts should include the development of appro-

(b) The way to extend democratization beyond periodic elections in order to give citizens real control over resource allocation in the public and private sectors;

nity leaders, academics and project participants. International assistance will be indispensable if such an effort is to be completed in time for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

(c) The identification of the

C. Strengthening policy



they non-governmental organizations, academics, political and social movements or private sector associations.

43. The utilization of communications technology to facili-

communities to ensure that girls stay in school;

(d) By reviewing health and sanitation services for their accessibility and appropriateness to women. In par-

*"In any scenario for the future, the role of education will be crucial. ... Creativity and innovation will be essential aspects of such education. In it, women will have more options and will*

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted, by 42 votes to 1, the

... development

*Convinced* that improving the negative effect on efforts for the

7. *Recommends* that Govern- their well-being, particularly that women, particularly those from  
developing countries in science.