

Summaries of articles

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[See table of contents](#)

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

1995 : Which Development for Women and Populations ?

Huguette Dagenais

The eleven texts of this issue are particularly relevant to understanding present development questions. Six articles pertaining respectively to militarization and gender politics (A. Michel); Middle-Eastern, North-African and East-European economic restructuring (V. Moghadam), development programmes aiming at African women (H. Ryckmans), Columbian women (MF Labrecque) and Saharia Women in India (A. Chauhab) and the influence of migration on AIDS knowledge in Cameroon (M. de Loenzien and H. Parizot), are followed by testimonies on Algeria (M.B. Tahon) and the Rwandan civil war (E. Mukakayumba), as well as on the Cairo (Y. Pelchat) and Dakar (F. Sow) world conferences and the effects of previous ones on women in Haiti (M. Anglade). The author concludes with reflexions on the link between religion and militarization and on those forgotten in development programmes, adolescent girls.

Militarization and Gender Politics

Andrée Michel

The militarization of contemporary societies is visible in the high level of military expenses, the importance of arms sales and the increase in the number of military coups. The impact of militarization on women's situation shows that a « latent function » of the « industrial-military system » is a patriarchal gender politics, which reproduces and increases men's domination of women .

Economic Restructuring, Identity Politics and Gender in East Central Europe and the Middle East-North Africa

Valentine M. Moghadam

This articles analyses the process of economic restructuring and its impact on women's employment and social position in East Central Europe and the Middle East-North Africa. It shows that this process is not only a stage in the evolution to a capitalist world order, but also a fundamentally patriarchal form of social transformation. This is why it is having similar adverse effects on women's livelihood in the two regions.

The Impact of Development Projects on Women's Productive and Reproductive Roles in Africa

Hélène Ryckmans

Development projects aiming at the improvement of women's situation rarely link women's productive and reproductive roles. These are treated separately by international and NGO development agencies, whose aims and methods are sometimes diametrically opposed. In fact, projects « slice up » women, thus resulting in failure. Three essential resources in the production-reproduction relationship are analyzed : time, income and training. Better access to these resources could reduce the gap in question and lead to a greater integration of population and development issues in the daily life of women.

Sustainable development, social change and gender relations in Colombia

Marie France Labrecque

After a brief historical presentation of the colonization process in the La Cocha lake region, this article analyses the effects on women and gender relations of two development projects: an income generating project and another aiming at the creation of nature reserves. The author uses the analytical frameworks of « social field » (champ social) and « sustainable development ».

Saharia Women: Sociocultural Constraints and Economic Development

Abha Chauhan

This article points out the necessity of studying tribal groups in India in their cultural context and with a women's perspective. Using data from her study among Saharia tribals of Central India, the author analyses the differential impact of development projects on men and women arising out of the constraints the latter face in the process.

Migration and Knowledge on AIDS in a Rural Area in Cameroon : a Comparison between Men and Women

Myriam de Loenzien et Isabelle Parizot

The effects of migration on knowledge pertaining to AIDS are not well known for lack of studies on the subject. This article presents some results from a multidisciplinary research done in a rural area of Cameroon in 1992-93. It shows that, because of different migratory behavior, not only do men have a better knowledge of AIDS, but this increases relatively the lack of information for women.

Algeria: Target Women

Marie-Blanche Tahon

Referring back to the colonial period, this article situates the murders of women happening today in Algeria in their historical and cultural context. The author insists on the impact of the « personal status » notion in Algerian men's quest for identity, culminating in the 1984 Family Code, and its negative consequences for women. She shows that the present situation in men-women relationships cannot be reduced to the *hidjab* issue; it is more complex.

Rwanda: Violence Against Women in a War Context

Edith Mukakayumba

Based on her own experience and on those of others, the author throws a personal and critical light on the massacres happening in Rwanda since April 6 1994, giving examples of the most atrocious violence committed against women. She emphasizes the almost total isolation of Rwandan women today because of this continuing conflict and deplores the lack of solidarity towards them on the part of the women involved in international cooperation.

The Cairo Conference on Population and Developpement : a Parti Pris for Women ?

Yolande Pelchat

In this paper, the author draws attention to particular aspects of United Nations strategy adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994. Emphasis is put on the particular vision of reproductive rights and gender equality promoted by the ICPD Program of Action. In her final commentaries, the author suggests a few areas of debate inspired by solutions to the « problem » of population growth put forward by the international community in Cairo.

The Effects of the United Nations World Conferences on Women in Haiti

Mireille Neptune Anglade

In the first part of this text, the author looks back at the three previous United Nations World Conferences on Women held in Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985) and, in the second part, she analyses their impact on women's situation in Haiti in social (infrastructures, housing, health and education), economic and political areas, at the eve of the fourth one to be held in Beijing.

The Fifth Regional African Conference on Women in Dakar

Fatou Sow

The United Nations Decade for Women was a period of consciousness raising and discussion for African women. The Decade promoted fruitful debates on women's concerns and priorities, as well as contacts and exchanges with women around the world who have a different discourse. The Fifth African Regional Conference held in Dakar, in preparation to the Beijing World Conference was a good opportunity to reflect on the struggles of African women, and on the progression from Mexico to Beijing, in their discourse from *participation* in development to the *right* to development.