

Preface

Upon a request from the ESCWA Organization, the Women National Committee (WNC) in Yemen has prepared this report about Yemeni women status during five years after the Beijing Conference 1995.

The report includes twelve independent topics covering almost all aspects of women's life. Education, health, economy, environment, human rights, decision-making, poverty, children, government, mechanisms, information, and violence. It has been, actually, prepared by WNC in collaboration, coordination, and participation of:

- ❖ Governmental concerned bodies (ministries, authorities, corporations, etc)
- ❖ Women-related NGOs.
- ❖ Private sector.
- ❖ Academic institutions and research centers.

I would like to thank, on my behalf and on behalf of my all colleagues, every organization, everyone who has contributed to preparation of this report, whether by giving information, help hand, statistics, financial or moral support or encouragement.

I thankfully acknowledge the assistance of everyone. We wouldn't have done the job, hadn't been for them all. I hope, finally, this report will be a mirror reflecting the current status of Yemeni women to every interested.

Chairperson, WNC
Amat-alatcem Assosowa.

1-Women and Poverty

Reports for 1998 indicated that the poor families are mostly existing in rural areas (see table 1). And that poverty spreads in some regions more than anywhere else does. Taiz and Ibb are where poverty much more than anywhere else and Albaidha Lahj, and Abyan come after them (table 2). Poverty spreads among families led by women more than those led by men. And so it does among families led by uneducated people or by idle or single ones (table 3). Families of many members are subjected to poverty more than families with fewer members. They live in very bad houses without having the essential services like electricity, water, sanitation, etc. (table 4)¹

Table (2) showing poverty spread according to poverty line

Governorate	Food poverty line			Upper line
	Spread	Gap	Scale	
Sana'a	4.6	1.1	0.35	11.3
Aden	10.3	2.7	1.00	22.8
Sana'a, Sada, Jawaf, Marib	9.1	2.0	0.62	18.4
Haja, Mahhweet, Hodeida Dhamar	12.8	2.8	0.95	27.8
Ibb, Taiz	10.3	2.9	1.20	24.9
Baidha, Lahj, Abyan	11.5	2.5	0.92	25.0
Shabwa, Hadhramut, Mahra	12.0	2.9	1.05	28.4
Rural				
Sana'a, Sada, Jawaf, Marib	7.1	1.4	0.41	19.8
Haja, Mahhweet, Hodeida Dhamar	8.8	1.9	0.63	23.4
Ibb, Taiz	24.6	7.0	2.89	39.0
Baidha, Lahj, Abyan	15.9	3.1	0.89	34.4
Shabwa, Hadhramut, Mahra	10.8	2.6	0.93	21.4

Table (3) showing poverty spread according to householder properties

Properties	Food poverty line	Upper line
Total	13.1	26.9
Householder Sex		
Male	12.9	26.5
Female	15.4	31.6
Householder Education		
Illiterate	35.5	29.7
Literate	13.3	27.9
Lower than secondary	8.9	20.9
Higher than secondary	3.8	11.5
Householder marital Status		
Single	18.1	34.2
Married	11.5	23.9
Divorcee, widow(er)	15.4	31.5
Relation to work		
Busy	12.6	26.2
Idle	17.6	30.6
Economically inactive	15.7	30.3

¹ Note: all three tables below are according to family budget survey.

Table(4) Showing Poverty spread according to selected properties for family

Family properties	Food poverty line	Upper line
Family Members		
1-2 persons	4.0	9.6
3-5 persons	6.5	16.4
6-8 persons	14.3	31.3
9-12 persons	20.1	34.8
13 persons	19.1	42.5
Family kind		
One person family	2.8	7.5
One parent family	17.9	33.2
Couple family	13.3	26.9
Extended family	12.8	27.9
Other	9.1	16.5
Density at Home		
Less than one person for room on average	2.1	4.9
1 to less than 2 persons for room	5.1	11.9
2 to less than 4 persons	12.7	27.9
4 to less than 6 persons	24.3	44.1
More than 6 persons	28.1	50.3

Financial and Institutional Measures:

Government role :

2-The national program to reduce poverty and provide job chances:

The Council of Ministers passed the document of the project on June 1998. It focussed on development and poverty reduction in the sectors in connection with social care, education, health, rural development, vocational training, operation, and productive families. The cost of the program is 40 million dollars for 5 years.

3-Social Security Net:

This subject will be given special priority in the government program of reforms in order to present as much as possible of assistance to the people of less income or those who are suffering from unemployment.

This net an integral system including funds, operational programs, direct financial support programs, and remittances that support production base and producers. Activities come under its umbrella are:

3-1-Social Care Fund:

It was created in 1996 according to law no(31). It aims at providing poor families with direct monetary grants and lessening suffering of the categories who have been affected by the economical reforms. 30,000 families started these grants since 1996. Having completed field surveys, government increased this number to 100,000 families with an allocation of 4 billion YR in the 1998. Government is still interested in expanding activities of the Fund.

3-2-Social Development Fund:

It was created in 1997 according to law no(10) with the objective of tackling side effects arising from the process of economical reforms. That is by bettering conditions of the poorer categories by providing them with the essential services job chances.

Program of the Fund:

- 1st. Society development program which aims at bettering standards of living for the poor by financing projects in field of first health, basic education, water, environment activities in both rural and urban areas.
- 2nd. Small and smaller projects development program which is responsible for small projects in collaboration with NGOs and small banks. It aims at finding job chances and increasing family income.
- 3rd. -Institutionalization program which aims at developing individuals capabilities, NGOs, and local civil communities in order to determine their own needs.

Table (5) showing beneficiaries from security net program

Organization	1997		1998		Sum	Unit
	Beneficiaries	Unit	Beneficiaries	Unit		
Social Dev.Fund	36350	Persons	55140	persons	1745999	\$
Social Care Fund	102134	Families	612804	=	2269798 000	YR
National Program	7788	Women	46728	=	3795079 8	YR
Public Works	43000	persons	385000	=	1630000 0	\$
Total	189272		1099672			

Table (6) showing the investments of the Fund for 95-98

Sector	Projects no	%	Cost	Sum Paid	%
Education	270	64	15414588.07	3392067.94	
Health	62	14.7	3561596.38	548797.65	22
Water	45	10.7	4154302.00	1240348.62	15
Developing	26	6.16	515915.49	134564.01	29
Sewerage	8	1.9	1045897.08	10301753	26
Activities	11	2.61	1945804.00	832214.35	42.8
Total	422	100	26635383.01	6251010.10	23.5

Table(7) showing achievements of the Fund till mid December 1998 and number of beneficiaries

Projects no.	Beneficiaries (organization)	Beneficiaries (women directly)	Beneficiaries (men directly)
22	17	1402	40

Table (8) showing the number of small loans with beneficiaries of organizations and women

Sector	Projects no.	Organizations	Women
Small loans	9	9	9740

Private sector role:

The private sector plays a big role in helping government put programs to reduce poverty through:

- ◆ Commercial banks that give facilities for poor women to enable them participate in production process.
- ◆ Providing poor and deprived women with foodstuffs for reasonable prices.
- ◆ Conducting studies to identify poverty problems in a view to help women overcome difficulties.
- ◆ Providing job chances for poor women and beggars and bringing foreign workforce to an end.
- ◆ Holding training courses for poor women to help them enter the labor market.
- ◆ Striving for providing the funds required for helping children join nurseries and kindergartens of NGOs and expanding this service so that it can include remote rural areas not covered by government.

Table (9) showing the civil organizations working in the social development to reduce poverty.

	Name	Activities
1	People Charitable Association	Implements charitable humane projects and productive programs to better income as well as health, education activities covering large areas in the Republic from which thousands benefit especially Women.
2	Islah Social Association	Implements projects in health, education, training, creates jobs for productive families and social care programs. gives priorities to women services.
3	Family Care Association	Provides health services including awareness in field of family organizing, procreation health, women development and children care. A lot of people benefit from its services.
4	Family Development Association	Presents service for marginalized and poor groups in field of vocational and health training and finds jobs for women in the labor market. Hundreds of people make use of it.
5	Hayel Charitable Association	Presents social care services and aids in cash and kind for thousands of families monthly. takes care of numerous orphans, gives medicines, supports building of some institutions in field of education, health, and social care where thousands of women get services.
6	Physically Disabled, Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Association	Presents rehabilitation and training services for all kinds of disabled and handicapped, provides them with compensating apparatuses, follows-up and participate government to have them and their families obtain services. Thousands make use of it in several main governorates.
7	Agricultural Cooperative Union	Implements and supervises projects costing millions in field of building dams, barriers and agricultural cooperatives.

Implementation in fields included in Beijing plan of action:

- 1- Policies of economy have been reviewed and adapted through the program of the financial and economical reform forwarded to government 1995. Women did not participate therein.
- 2- Policies and programs in connection with stability in economy, overseas debts, tax, investment, manpower, markets, and all sectors in connection have been analyzed with the objective of preparation for financial monetary, administrative reform program. This national program accomplished the following in its first stage:
 - ◆ *65% of its essential plan,
 - ◆ *Stopped deterioration in economy, inflation, and currency value,
 - ◆ *Rescheduled the foreign debts.
- 3- Chances were given to women to reach productive resources for meeting their basic needs in field of health and education especially women who live in poverty. That is through encouraging associations and agricultural cooperatives (see table 9)
- 4- Safety nets were enhanced to enable women endure difficulties arising from economical reforms. That was implemented through the Social Safety Net.
- 5- New economical and social policies were adopted through productive families program and public works the matter which had positive impact on women and their incomes.
- 6- The document of the National Program for Combating Poverty was passed on June 1998 including the plan of action which would help poor women in both rural and urban areas have food easier than ever before.
- 7- Measures to integrate poor women and those who are socially marginalized were taken and women skills and qualifications were recognized.
- 8- Social insurance system was implemented with the objective of realizing equity between women and men at every stage of life through the Social Care Fund.

Table (10) Non-governmental organizations registered at Ministry of Insurance:

Type	Number	Type	Number
*Agricultural	265	*Social	110
*Consuming	95	*Cultural	21
*Fish	34	*Vocational	23
*Handicrafts	26	*Scientific	11
*Housing	126	*Clubs	62
*Unions	2	*Syndicates	68
*Charitable	519	*Unions	60

2-Women Education and Training

Basic education along with later stages have been widely propagating and the number of students of both sexes has been increasing by leaps and bounds over the last few years. Education has been of many kinds, general secondary education, technical, vocational education and specialist education. Therefore educational options have been expanded in front of the society individuals. Private initiatives to invest in field of education have started to gradually grow in all education stages basic, secondary, technical, vocational, and high education. It can be said that modern system of education in Yemen is of two main kinds:

Regular Education:

This kind of education serves population at age of 6-15 years. It includes basic, secondary with its different kinds, and high education.

Irregular Education:

It serves population who have missed education chance for whatever reason. They are at age of 10-60 years.

The national strategy for girls education no(225)for year 98 showed the difference between male and female students in basic education. Table(11) the gap between both sexes:

Table (11)

Year	Ages of (6-15)			Ages of(6-15)			Female %	Female %
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total		
94/95	2270127	2524637	4794764	848428	1785398	2633826	37%	32%
95/96	2321553	2561364	4882917	806286	2025593	2831879	35%	28%
96/97	2161000	2209000	4369000	901323	2217273	3118596	42%	29%
97/98	2195000	2293000	4488000	884309	1981067	2865376	40%	31%
total	8947680	9587011	18534691	3440346	3090333	11449679	38%	30%

1-From table no (11) we can see large difference between female students who have been enrolled in basic education and the total number of population at ages of (6-15). We can see in 94/95 only 37% were enrolled. this means that 63% females did not go to school.

2-Also it can be noticed how wide the gap is between male and female students who joined schools in the same year. Female were only 32% and this percentage went down to 31% in 97/98.

Moreover large number of female students leave school after the fourth year of primary stage, ie as they reach age of 10 years. The largest number of female student is at the first years of basic education. Then it starts to get smaller and smaller especially in rural and coastal areas. This can be attributed to the following reasons:

1-A few schools for girls,

2-A few female teachers,

3-Superiority of boys education over girls education,

4-Girls are engaged to works at home and out especially in rural areas.

5-Early marriage of girls,

6-Curriculum is not connected with girls' vocational skills.

The National strategy for literacy and adult education showed many indications according to the census of 1994. Look at the table below:

Table (12) Showing percentage of uneducated persons according to 1994 census

Age	Male	Female	total	Female%
10-15	280346	697940	978286	71%
16-45	866812	2116196	2,983,008	71%
Total	1147158	2184136	3961294	71%

From the table above it can be noticed that uneducated women percentage is high.

This problem can be attributed to the following reasons:

1. Inability of the education system to have capacity for all people who are at the age of compulsory education due to increasingly large number of population from one hand, and scarcity of resources to build schools from the other hand.
2. The population growth rate is 3.7%
3. Rise of the number of students who fail and leak from school.
4. The difference in economical and social growth between rural and urban areas made people in rural areas encourage their children to agricultural works especially girls rather than to education.
5. Weakness of fund for literacy and adult education campaigns led to breakdown of efforts exerted in this regard.

2-Vocational Training for Women:

The state cared for two kinds of vocational training as follows:

2-1-Regular Training:

After having completed basic education, students can join training centers. These centers may be purely for girls or mixed with boys.

Here are some fields in which girls had good luck to join:

- One) Vocational industrial education where 16% of this kind of education are female students.
- Two) Vocational agricultural education where female students represent 13%.
- Three) Vocational fishery education where female students represent 6%.
- Four) Commercial education where percentage of female students is comparatively high(50%)
- Five) Health education where female students represent 30%.

2-2-Irregular Training:

There are many centers in both rural and urban areas concerned with women training some of which are:

- Women basic training centers which belong to Literacy Organization. They are scattered through out the country. They 12 centers. 10 units are subordinated to them. 40 more centers are being founded by now at level of governorates especially countryside areas where illiteracy is high.
- 20 productive family centers.
- Female disabled rehabilitation centers .
- Women rehabilitation centers which belong to political parties and women unions.
- Official youth, health, cultural, and agricultural centers.
- Women rehabilitation centers of the private sector.

However, are in need for modern machines, maintenance, spare parts, as well as buildings for continuous training, halls and classes for training.

< The subject matter of the curriculum in all training centers is presented randomly and irregularly and do are objectives of training due to unavailability of possibilities and experience required for preparing the subject matter which suits programs and plans of training. The Organization for Literacy and Adult Education is striving for preparing advanced curriculum in this regard.

< Most of the trainees are of limited experience. The ones who have good experience are not Yemenis.

< So far, there are not training centers for women only. This status deprives a lot of graduates of getting job chances in the labor market especially in industrial laboratories where high skills are needed. In all cases girls education does not go beyond home needs. Levels of training syllabus are not good enough to qualify women to run their own small projects successfully.

Obstacles Facing Vocational Training

1-In field of regular training:

- Negative social view on girls vocational training,
- Compulsory basic education principle is not applied,
- Early marriage and high procreation rate,
- Qualified and trained women are not given chances of promotion,
- Lack of expansion of vocational training centers for women.

2-In field of Irregular training:

- -No unified and qualified organization supervising over women training centers.
- -Scarcity of possibilities and not having sufficient budget to operate centers.
- Scarcity of qualified cadres working in this field full-time.
- Short sighted view on certificates granted to women.
- -Lack of coordination between private sector offices for providing job chances for women.
- -Training programs do not teach women how to their own projects.
- -Scattering of population and inability of training to reach everywhere.
- -No admission conditions are there to promote training process.

Proposals to Develop Vocational Training for Women

- ❖ To put a national strategy matching with all rural and urban areas and meeting needs of the local community for every district.
- ❖ To conduct field surveys for small industries and crafts and then a detailed plan for providing them with local raw materials.
- ❖ To prepare a study for vocations demanded by the labor market and find a mechanism for coordinating between the private sector and bodies supervising on training.
- ❖ To provide the existing centers with all necessary outfits, spare parts ,maintenance, and to train teachers maintaining machines.
- ❖ Adopting suitable mechanism for modernizing syllabus so that it can keep up with the up-to-dated technologies and labor market demands.
- ❖ To call on all people in connection to discuss how to find a unified identity supervising on women training centers.
- ❖ To provide sufficient budget for training centers, and put new mechanism for training and qualifying process.
- ❖ To create productive units with the purpose of practical application for trainees and providing training process with some revenues.
- ❖ To care for the vocational guidance among society specially among girls in basic and secondary stages.

3-Secondary Education:

Although female students in this stage are increasingly much,(39061 in 93/94
82760 in 97/98,they are not as much as it must be.

Table no (13) showing number of male and female students in secondary education for 93/94-97/98.

	93/94	Fem%	94/95	Fem%	95/96	Fem%	96/97	Fem%	97/98	Fem%
Male	175586	82%	211375	87%	230095	76%	254483	79%	286325	76%
Fem	39061	18%	48836	19%	54800	24%	66419	21%	82760	24%
Total	214647		260411		284895		320902		348285	

From the table above it can be noticed that female students are not even equal to quarter of the male even despite improvement in the average of first marriage ages which rose to 20.7 years at the level of the Republic ,20.4 at rural areas,21.6 at urban areas according to 1994 census.

4-University Education:

It can be noticed that the number of female students joining university is low. This proves that the higher the level of education the lower the number of female students joining it can be noticed that the number of female students joining university did not develop over 93/94-97/98.Female students percentage remained almost constant(13%) which is very low. While that of male is 87%.

It has been proved that number of female students leaving from university is increasing .One also can note that majority of female students is in faculties of Arts, Education, Science, Medicine, and minority of them in Law ,Engineering, Agriculture, and Commerce .

In spite of the fact that faculties of Information and Languages have been recently founded, percentage of female students therein is relatively high. And the percentage in agriculture colleges is not more than 6% though Yemeni society is agricultural one and countryside women participation in agricultural works is outstanding.

5-Actual Participation of Women in Educational Professions

Importance of female education can be measured through statistical data that show women participation in teaching profession.See table no(14)

Female teachers percentage rose from 15% in 94/95 to18% in 97/98.It can be noticed that female teachers percentage in secondary schools (22%) is higher than it is in basic schools (17%).

Table no (14) showing male and female teachers for 93/94-97/98

Year	93/94	Fem%	94/95	Fem%	95/96	Fem%	96/97	Fem%	97/98	Fem%
Male	65954		75985		95481		118937		142878	
Female	13564	17%	13787	15%	17360	15%	23950	17%	31578	18%
Total	79518		89772		112841		142885		174456	

In view of all these statistical data, government has adopted policies in field of girls education, literacy, and adult education. Numerous laws have been enacted in this field like Literacy and Adult Education Act and Teacher and Educational Professions Act.

It has taken some procedures to empower women like:

1-Family awareness of importance of girls education:

*-Justifications:

1-Lack of understanding how important it is to get girls educate.

2-The stereotyped situation towards girls' education,

3-Girls' education needs mobilization and full conviction.

*Procedures:

1-A plan for spreading awareness,

2-Activating the role of schools in society so that teachers can play a role in spreading the awareness.

3-Forming local groups to carry out awareness campaigns,

4-Caring for mosque's role in spreading awareness of girls education.

*Participating bodies:

1-Ministry of Education,

2-Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs,

3-Industrial Chambers,

4-Ministry of Information, ,

5-Ministry of Endowment and Guidance,

6-Women and youth associations, clubs, and unions

7-Local authorities.

Table(15) showing policies adopted by Yemeni Government for women education

Policy	Justification	procedures	Participating bodies
Family awareness	-Not caring for usefulness of girls education -General situation towards girls' education is based on wrong concepts. -Girls' education needs mobilization and full conviction.	-Adopting a plan for spreading awareness. -Activating school's role in this process. -Forming local teams to spread awareness. -Caring for mosques' role.	Ministry of Education -Ministry of Information -Ministry of Endowment -Association of Youth and Women Clubs -Local Authorities.
Compensating families for lost chances.	-Low income with most countryside families. -Family loss by paying expenses for girls schooling. -Unavailability of job chances for girls after graduation.	Supporting projects For schoolgirls and their families. -Exempting girls from school expenses. -Encouraging the national capitals that support girls' joining school. -Some support from international organization.	Ministry of Education. -Ministry of Insurance -Commercial Chambers. -Ministry of Labor. Ministry of Civil Service.
3-Increasing number of female teachers.	-Not making use of outputs of education. -Turning away from being teachers in countryside.	-A plan for training female teachers in rural areas. -Attracting female students to teaching profession. -Increasing job chances	Ministry of Education. -Ministry of Civil Service. -Ministry of Finance. -Faculty of Education -Local Authorities.

		<p>in countryside schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Providing all kind of incentives to make female teachers transfer to countryside. -Promoting female teachers to higher ranks. 	
4-Rising level of female teachers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Female teachers' level does not fit with their tasks especially in the countryside. -Countryside female teachers have many tasks to do. -Training level does not meet need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A plan for training and promoting female teachers. 	<p>Ministry of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ministry of Civil Service. -Local Authorities.
5-Avoiding mixing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mixing(boys and girls) is of reasons why girls do not join school -Opposition to mixing varies from area to area. -Age at which mixing is allowed is also different. -Mixing in basic education is still common. 	<p>Operating schools two times one of them for girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Special class rooms for girls. -Building independent schools for girls. -Redoing the existing buildings. 	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Local Authorities.</p>
6-Making the staff of the first four levels females.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixing is acceptable in first years of basic education. -Children need special care at beginning. -It is difficult to build classrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointing female teachers in the first four levels. -Giving priorities to female teachers. 	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Local Authorities</p>
7-Location of schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Girls' joining school depends on how far it is from home to school. -If school lies where people usually gather parents fear to send their children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building schools and classrooms near to residential complexes. -Preparing school maps. 	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Local Authorities</p> <p>Unit of Education projects Implementation</p>
8-Elasticity of curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Curriculum does not meet students needs. -Severity in applying the plan of action of schooling. -Current curriculum does not care for crafts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Connecting the plan with needs of students especially girls. -Paying attention to specialization consideration. -Concentrating on skills and crafts. -Strengthening design of the curriculum. 	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Local Authorities</p> <p>Center of Developing Educational Researches.</p>
9-Providing attractiveness elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of attractiveness elements is one reason behind leakage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adopting programs and activities responding students hobbies. -Adopting programs connecting activities of school and home. -Sharing students with tasks to better school environment. -Caring for setting up 	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Local Authorities</p>

		exhibitions and ceremonies and honoring ideal parents. -Designing optional educational programs for girls especially those who have not joined school.	
10-Activating the existing legislation and issuing new ones	-Lack of application of legislation that positively influence on girls education. -Need for new legislation supporting girls education.	-Studying legislation and specifying what is in favor of girls' education. -Studying implementation of legislation.	Ministry of Education Local Authorities Ministry of Legal Affairs.
11-Unifying management and supervising.	-Lack of having only one body to manage and supervise girls' education. -Having many supervisory bodies thwarts many projects.	-Forming a higher council for girls education. -Sharing the public with council. -Adopting a plan for developing girls education	Ministry of Education Local Authorities
12-Fund increasing.	-Little fund obstructs implementation. -Some projects do not meet local needs.	-Allocating a budget for girls education. -Using all aids for improving girls' education. -Giving priorities for girls education in countryside. -Creating a national fund for supporting girls' education. -Searching for new sources to support girls education.	Ministry of Education Local Authorities Ministry of Finance.
13-Conducting researches and studies to evaluate girls education.	-Girls education projects do not depend on studies. -Lack of mechanism for assessment. -Scarcity of studies and researches in this field. -Lack of having a database for girls education.	-Adopting a plan for studies and researches. -Creating a database for girls education.	Ministry of Education Local Authorities

3-Women and Health

Mother mortality rate is 1000-1400/100,000. Infant mortality rate is also high especially among females.

*Money spent on health does not exceed 3.8% of the total general budget. This figure is considered to be little compared with the countries of low income. To reach the medium level of these countries, disbursement on health must be increased to 11% of the total disbursement of government (1995 estimations)

*Fertility rate among women under 30 according to survey conducted 1997 did never practically change. However, this rate did drop with regard to women over 30 resulting in falling of the total fertility rate from 7.6 to 6.7, i.e. one child for every woman during her procreation life. This drop can be attributed to contraceptives.

There are some other factors that make fertility rate high, they can be counted as follows:

1. Repeated birth cases: 8.3 live births on average.
2. Short intervals between births: 45% of live births take place during dangerous period, i.e. within less than two years time one birth and the other.

3. Early and late procreation: 44% of married women get pregnant before 20 and after 35.

Reproductive Health:

The public sector was considered to be the main source of the family planning means during previous surveys which took place 6 years ago. Surveys covered 57%. But this rate dropped during the last survey 1997 to 51%.

The Yemeni Family Care Association that is responsible for distributing modern means for organizing family was added in 1997. It distributes contraceptives through 230 health centers scattered over 15 governorates, 150 centers of which belong to Ministry of Health, 30 to local councils and NGOs, 52 to private sector in addition to 8 clinics directly follow the Association. They present services of family planning and motherhood and childhood care. The number of women who frequently Enquirer these centers increased from 22,265 in 1997 to 192,427 in 1998. Mobile clinics have been used for first time in Yemen in the purpose of providing services of motherhood and childhood and family planning.

Public hospitals serve about 28% of users of these organizing means. Pharmacies provide about 21% users with these means. While 14% users get their means from the private doctor. Private sector varies from public sector in helping users get loop means while public sector advances in helping users have contraceptives (52% versus 44%).

Results of the demographic survey conducted in 1997 indicated that 21% of married women have become use means for family planning. Half of them use traditional means including suckling for long time, and the other half use modern means. 4% of them use contraceptives, 3% use loop, 1% use injection, and 1% also use sterilization. 8% depend on lengthening period of suckling, 2% resort to way of isolation or periodical abstention, and 1% use the period of safety.

Estimations say that around 150,000 persons catch diseases that are sexually transferred. Up to mid 1998 the total number of AIDS cases reached 215.

Goals of the first five-year plan (1996-2000)

1. To increase services of motherhood and childhood to 60% by end of the year 2000.
2. To increase covering rate of pregnant women care to 60%.
3. To decrease mother mortality rate because of pregnancy, giving birth, and lying-in by 50% as the year 2000 ends.
4. To expand services of birth giving and encourage women to deliver under hygienic supervision.

Draft of the population plan of action (1996-2000) took into account the results and recommendations resulted from the National Conference Population Policy held in Sana'a on October 1996. The most important of which are:

1- To raise covering of health service from 40% in 1994 to 60% by beginning of 2000.

1. To lower mother mortality rate by 25% in year 2000 from 1400/100,000 in year 1995.
2. To lower illness rate arising from inappropriate procreation behavior like repeated births, and closeness between them.
3. To lower infant mortality rate from 81/1000 births in 1994 to 60/1000 births in year 2000, furthermore, to less than 50/1000 by year 2006.
4. To lower infant mortality rate from 122/1000 birth to 80/1000 by year 2000 and to less than 35/1000 by year 2006.
5. To raise use rate of family organizing means to 22% by year 2000 and 36% by year 2006.
6. To lower fertility rate from 7.4 birth/woman in 1994 to 6/woman by year 2000 and to 5 birth by 2006.

In spite of the fact that women have been achieving many steps forward, there are still some issues and gaps in need for further concentration:

- Illiteracy percentage is still 69.7% among females throughout the Republic in general and 85% in the rural areas in particular.
- Dropping out rate from school is 67.9% among females while it is only 23.2% among males.
- It can be noticed that deaths rate among females in rural areas is higher than it is in urban areas (10.95/1000 rural, 8.83 urban) according 1994 census.
- Infant mortality rate among females is 76/1000 in rural while it is 65/1000 in urban.

The following policies and programs can be applied to health field:

- Expanding hospitals, health centers and units to serve women.
- Developing health care programs.
- Activating women's role in preserving water sources and protecting environment.

To better women health status and enable them to participate in decision-making the following steps have to be taken:

1. Enabling all women to have basic education at least.
2. Providing women (including countryside women) with all information about health, education and culture through all kinds of media.
3. Creating women cadres working in field of health so that they provide services to women for it is traditionally acceptable with regard to women to receive any service from women rather than from men especially services in connection with family planning questions.

The Government Concerning Implementation of Beijing plan of action

- ❖ There have been some achievements with the framework of the national plan of action. The Women National Committee (WNC) has been founded. It brings together to its membership leading and experienced women, and female social figures representing government institutions, charitable, voluntary, and popular associations with the objective of joining hands and efforts for rising women level.
- ❖ There has not been any concrete progress in women status in comparison with the national plan of action of 1995.
- ❖ Yes working for achieving objectives of women promotion is running. Issue of equity has been given priority as well as poverty combating and bettering conditions of the poor women and enabling them to have full education and health.

Republic of Yemen's priorities as for Beijing are as follows:

- One) Plan of action to develop mechanisms and programs and tackle shortcomings with the objective of improving women status.
- Two) plan for fighting poverty and rising level of the poor women by opening small productive projects.
- Three) plan enabling women to have full education.
- Four) plan for improving health status of women.

Some NGOs are integrating gender issues into their programs like the Yemeni Family Care Association. There is a trend from the International Union for Family Organizing that women have to participate in decision-making, in board, general assembly, and administrative staff.

*In the point of view of audience, care for women promotion and equity with men did never happen. More support is still needed to enhance media and NGOs to highlight women issues.

*NGOs played an important role in planning and organizing follow-up events. For instance, Family Care Association held a symposium on March 1996 to follow-up what had been achieved after Beijing. Also it has been striving for getting women aware of their legal rights through various activities.

With regard to women health, NGOs played an outstanding role in achieving objectives connected with lowering infant and mother mortality rate and raising use of family organizing means, and lowering fertility rate. The most outstanding organization that played an important role in this field is the Yemeni Family Care Association.

At the government level, the National Program for Mother&Child Health and Family Organizing (1996-2006) was created by the National Council for Population along with Ministry of Health and some other governmental and governmental organizations in collaboration with international efforts, the most important of which was Beijing conference 1995.

4-Violence against Women

Violence is a social phenomenon from which all societies suffering regardless of their social, cultural, and economic levels. Over the last two decades there have been many forms and types of violence against women. Women are subjected to violence of family, legal violence, and psychological violence.

"Violence against women" is every violent act based on sex resulting in major harm and suffering whether sexual or psychological to women including coercion or deprivation whether in public or private life.

In spite of the fact that Islam strongly respects equity, maintains dignity, and protects women, there still remain violent acts against women.

Some studies indicate that women are subjected to different forms of violence within both the family and society. These acts are prohibited by laws and legislation which provide for full equity between men and

women in rights and duties. These acts are represented by murder, starting in it, rape, kidnapping, committing suicide or starting in it.

By looking at the table below we can have an idea how many violence crimes were perpetrated against women in 1996/1997 throughout the Republic.

Table no (16) showing violence against women 1996/1997

Governorate	1996	1997	—	%
Sana'a City	44	64	20	31.2+
Sana'a	16	32	16	50.0+
Aden	62	80	18	22.5
Taiz	20	26	6	23.0
Hodeida	8	14	6	42.0+
Abyan	22	20	2-	10-
Lahaj	28	34	6	17.6+
Ibb	66	68	2	2.9+
Dhamar	14	18	4	22.2+
Hudhmut	18	14	4-	28.0-
Sadah	10	28	18	64.0+
Beidha	14	18	4	2.2-
Mahara	8	2	6-	300.0-
Mahweet	10	8	2-	25.0+
Shabwa	4	10	6-	40.0+
Haja	4	22	18-	81.0+
Mareb	6	0	6-	600.0
Jawf	4	2	2-	100.0
Total	338	460	122+	26.5

Table no(17) showing Violence crimes among every 100,000 of women

Governorate	1996	Governorate	1997	Population
Sana'a City	8.1	Sana'a City	11.8	540
Sana'a	0.15	Sana'a	3.1	
Aden	25.9	Aden	33.3	239
Taiz	1.7	Taiz	2.2	1157
Hodeida	0.9	Hodeida	1.5	918
Abyan	10.4	Abyan	9.4	212
Lahaj	8.7	Lahaj	10.6	320
Ibb	6.6	Ibb	6.8	993
Dhamar	2.6	Dhamar	3.3	545
Hudhmut	4.5	Hudhmut	3.6	393
Sadah	3.7	Sadah	10.4	269
Beidha	5.3	Beidha	6.7	265
Mahara	26.6	Mahara	6.6	030
Mahweet	4.8	Mahweet	3.8	209
Shabwa	1.8	Shabwa	4.5	220
Haja	0.65	Haja	3.10	709
Mareb	5.8	Mareb	0	803
Jawf	3.8	Jawf	803	1.9
Total	4.1	Total	8253.000	8253.0005.5

The table above shows the following:

1. Violence crimes against women in 97 are higher than that of 96.
2. Violence against women is widespread throughout the Republic.
3. Aden is with the highest number violence crimes against women followed by Sana'a City.

Table no(18) showing violence against women compared to that against men

Type of crime	1996			1997		
	Women	Both	%	Women	Both	%
Deliberate murder	66	286	23.0	108	308	35.1
Mistaken murder	28	62	45.2	68	70	97.1
Bodily harm	36	1350	2.6	142	1491	9.5
Kidnapping & coercion	44	51	82.3	34	50	68.0
Suicide & starting in it	40	125	32.0	68	163	41.7
Total	280	1823	15.2	420	2082	20.2

It can be noticed that:

- Violence against women in 97(20.2%) is more than that of 96(15.2%).
- Mistaken murder crimes come at the top of the list where they represented 97.1% in 97 while they were 45.2% in 96.
- Women are subjected to kidnapping and coercion more than men where the percentage was 82.3% in 96 and 68% in 97.
- Suicide phenomenon has been spreading among women where its percentage rose to 41.7 %in 97 compared to men.
- Deliberate murder crimes in 97 reached 35.1%.
- Women are less subjected to bodily harm and assault compared to men

Table no (19) murder crimes against women in 95/97

Governorate	Deliberate Murder			Mistaken Murder		
	1996	1997	±	1996	1997	±
				2	10	8
Sana'a	4	8	4	2	2	0
Aden	2	2	0	0	10	10
Taiz	12	10	2-	0	6	6
Hodeida	2	4	4	0	2	2
Abyan	6	-	6	0	6	6
Lahj	6	2	4-	0	6	6
Ibb	14	20	6	6	20	14
Dhamar	-	8	8	0	0	0
Hadramut	-	2	2	0	0	0
Sadah	2	6	4	0	2	2
Beidha	4	6	6	0	2	2
Mahra	-	-	0	0	0	0
Mahweet	2	2	0	0	0	0
Shibwah	2	2	0	0	2	2
Haja	-	16	16	0	0	0
Mareb	2	-	2-	0	0	0
Jawf	0	-	0	0	0	0
Total	66	108	42	10	68	5

From the table above we can notice the following:

- Deliberate and non-deliberate murder crimes in 1997 rose compared to that of 1996.
- Deliberate murder crimes in 1997 were much more than that of 1996.
- Deliberate murder crimes against women increased in Ibb and the mountainous areas.

Table no(20) showing crimes of bodily harm against women

Governorate	1996	1997	+/-
Sana'a City	4	14	10
Sana'a	2	14	12
Aden	4	28	24
Taiz	2	2	0
Hodeida	-	2	2
Abyan	2	4	2
Lahj	2	16	14
Ibb	6	22	16
Dhamar	6	10	4
Hudhmut	-	2	2
Sadah	2	10	8
Beidhan	2	8	6
Mahrah	-	-	0
Mahweet	4	4	0
Shabwah	-	2	2
Haja	-	4	4
Marb	-	-	0
Jawf	-	-	0
Total	36	142	106

The table above shows the following:

- Bodily harm crimes against women in 97 rose compared with 96.
- Aden comes at the top in these crimes followed by Ibb, Lahj, Sana'a City, Sana'a, and Dhamar.

Table no(21) Showing rape crimes

Governorate	1996	1997	+/-
Sana'a City	6	6	-
Sana'a	-	-	-
Aden	24	14	-10
Taiz	-	2	2
Hodeida	4	-	4
Abyan	4	-	4
Lahj	-	-	-
Ibb	-	4	4
Dhamar	-	-	-
Hudhmut	10	10	-
Sadah	2	-	-2
Beidhan	-	2	2
Mahrah	6	-	+6
Mahweet	-	2	2
Shabwah	-	-	-
Haja	-	-	-
Marb	-	-	-
Jawf	-	-	-
Total	56	40	+6

From the table above it can be noticed that:

- Rape crimes in 97 fell compared with 96.
- Despite falling of these crimes, Aden comes at the top with respect to other governorates.
- Hudhmut comes in the second place after Aden where the number of 97 did not change from that of 96.
- Sana'a City comes in the third place.

Table no(22) showing crimes of kidnaping and coercion

Governorate	1996	1997	+/-
Sana'a City	12	20	8
Sana'a	-	2	2
Aden	4	6	2
Taiz	-	2	2
Hodeida	2	-	-2
Abyan	4	-	-4
Lahj	2	2	-
Ibb	8	-	-8
Dhamar	-	-	-
Hudhramut	6	-	-6
Sadah	-	-	-
Beidhan	-	-	-
Mahrah	2	-	-2
Ma'weel	-	-	-
Shabwah	-	2	2
Haja	-	-	-
Mareb	-	-	-
Jawf	-	-	-
Total	44	34	-10

The table above shows the following:

- Kidnapping and coercion crimes have been decreasing all over the country.
- They decreased in 97 by 22.7% compared to 96, though there was rise in Aden and Sana'a City.

Table no(23) showing suicide and attempts to commit it

Governorate	1996	1997	+/-
Sana'a City	2	6	4
Sana'a	-	6	-
Aden	4	20	-16
Taiz	4	4	0
Hodeida	-	6	6
Abyan	6	10	4
Lahj	10	8	-2
Ibb	10	2	-8
Dhamar	-	-	-
Hudhramut	-	-	-
Sadah	-	-	2
Beidhan	2	-	2
Mahrah	-	-	-
Ma'weel	-	-	0
Shabwah	-	2	-
Haja	-	2	-
Mareb	2	-	-
Jawf	-	2	-
Total	4	68	28

By going over the table above we can see that:

- Committing suicides and attempts to do increased in 97 by 41.2% compared to 96.
- Suicide cases in Aden in 97 increased by 80% and Abyan comes in the second place.
- Despite falling in Lahj in 97, it comes in the third place while Sana'a City, Sana'a, and Hodeida come in the fourth.
- Some governorates registered a few cases while others did not at all.

Table no(24) showing ages of violence victims of women

Age	Murder		Starting in it		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping		Total
	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	
0-15	24	32	10	64	2	4	40	26	4	6	12	6	92
16-30	24	48	32	94	20	30	16	12	32	66	34	22	158
31-40	28	16	16	44	4	18	2	4	2	12	6	6	58
41-50	6	14	4	22	2	8		2	8			2	20
51-60	4	14	4	14	2	4					2	2	12
61-...	4	4		6	-	4							4
	14	18	14	28	6	12	2		4	2	4	4	44
Total	104	146	80	272	36	80	60	44	50	86	58	42	388

From the table above it can be noticed that:

- Violence victims are mostly among young women.
- Children under 15 subjected to violence in 96 were 23.7% and 97 they were 20.7%.
- Violence against women is inversely proportional with the age ie the older the women the less the violence.
- Children under 15 are more subjected to rape.

Table no (25) showing social status of violence victims of women

Status	Murder		Murder Attempt		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping		Total
	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	
Single	18	30	6	66	2	12	36	28	2	8	16	10	80
Married	64	82	68	130	28	56	20	10	42	60	34	18	256
Divorcee		4								2			6
Widow		6		6		2						6	
Other	22	24	6	70	6	10	4	6	6	16	10	8	52
Total	104	146	80	272	36	80	60	44	50	86	58	42	388

From the table above we can notice that:

- Married women are more subjected to murder and starting in it than single ones, divorcees and widows.
- Murder crimes among married women amounted to 55.2% in 97.
- Single women are more subjected to rape crimes.

Table no(26) showing the relation between the assailant and assailed

Relation	Murder		Murder attempt		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping	
	96	97	96	97	96	97		96	97	96	97	96
Daughter	12	32	4	4			4	2			24	18
Wife	10	20	14	20	4	6	4				36	46
Mother	2	6	2	6		6					4	12
Sister	20	12	6	24	2	30	2	2			30	38
Other	22	36	24	104	10	40	20	20	28		104	220
Unlabelled	38	60	30	114	20	34	30	20	30	42	148	330
Total	104	146	80	272	36	80	60	44	58	42	338	584

The table above shows the following:

- The majority of violence victims have close relations with the assailant.
- Violence victims at the level of family (wife, sister, daughter) were 22% in 96

Table no (27) showing professions of the violence victims

Profession	Murder		Starting in it		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping		Total		
	96	97	96	97	96	97		96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97
Child	10	24	6	38	2	2		24	16			6	4	48	84
Student	6	2		10		4	4	4		4		10	8	10	32
Housewife	56	72	60	124	24	46	16	14	34	60	28	10		218	326
Teacher		4		16		6	4			2				4	28
Employee				2	4	8	4	2	6		2	8		16	20
Unlabelled	6		10		4		4							24	0
Other	32	38	14	70	6	10	8	4	10	20	12	12		82	151
Total	104	146	80	272	36	80	60	44	50	86	58	42		388	670

The table above shows the following:

- Housewives are more subjected to violence crimes.
- Female children are subjected to different kinds of violence crimes (kidnapping, murder, rape).

Table no(28) Table showing reasons why violence perpetrated against women

Causes	Murder		Starting in it		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping		Total	
	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97	96	96	96	97
Family problems	48	44	26	68	18	28			40	60	6		138	200
Money	12	22	12	56	4	10							28	88
Other	44	52	32	118	12	42	60	44	10	26	52	42	42	324
Ignorance	28	10	30	2									28	42
Total	104	146	80	272	36	80	60	44	50	86	58	42	388	670

It can be noticed from the table above that causes leading to violence are:

- Family problems whose percentage reached 35.5% in 96.
- Other causes leading to violence are not clear in the official registers.

Table no (29) showing means used in violence crimes against women.

Means	Murder		Murder Attempt		Bodily harm		Rape		Suicide		Kidnapping		Total		
	96	97	96	97	96	97		96	97	96	97	96	97	96	97
Gun	70	126	70	238										140	364
Janbia	10		2	8										12	8
Hand	6		6	32										68	32
Other	4	14	8	20	4	24	60	44	50	86	38	42		154	230
Unnamed	14	6												14	6
Total	104	146	80	272	60	24	50	44	50	86	38	42		388	670

The table above indicates that gun is the mostly used means in violence against women. Its percentage reached 54 % of all other means used in violence.

Obstacles

1. Illiteracy among women and men is high and legal awareness is low.
2. Absence of policies and programs relating to violence against women.
3. Lack of enlightening centers to enlighten and guide women and girls to protect themselves.
4. Perpetrators of violence against women and girls are not punished.
5. Absence of mechanisms that may enable people to inform about the violence crimes.
6. Lack of financial resources to create educational institutions for women and girls who have been subjected to violence and fund researches relating to issues and problems of violence against women.

- Absence of monitoring and supervision over application of the laws and legislation connected with women and children.

Future Trends to Abolish Violence against Women

- Getting women and girls be aware of their rights provided for by the constitution and international laws especially in the field of violence.
- Finding an institutional mechanism enabling women to inform about violence cases that happen to them.
- Creating educational institutions for women and girls who have been subjected to violence and provide them with medical and legal services and consultations.
- Organising campaigns to spread awareness among the society individuals about violence against women.
- Incorporating the articles concerning human rights in general and women rights in particular into the programs of institutes and textbooks of schools.
- Activating the institutions concerned with women and girls protection and enhancing the compliance with implementation of laws and international agreements concerning women and children.
- Issuing bulletins and information programs to cultivate women and girls.

5-Women and Economy

Women in Yemen represent approximately half of the population. Working women are 20.18% in various sectors. 50% of them are working in agricultural sector, 0.60% in mining sector, 0.04% in electricity and water, 0.16% in industries, 0.02% in finance, insurance, and real estate sector.

While in administrative sector working women represent 0.09% even though some of work without getting paid (26.33%), 40.35% get paid and 17.04% work for their own.

Government procedures to increase women's participation in economical activities:

- Launching media campaigns to introduce women's role in development as beneficiary and participant simultaneously. Campaigns have to be addressed to both men and women for more understanding and sympathizing with women.
- Granting women appropriate chances to participate in decision-making process and in law formulating process especially laws that concern women issues.
- Encouraging women to join voluntary associations that may help them find jobs.
- Providing education chances especially secondary for all women and encouraging them to pursue.
- Providing care of children centers and offering care services for reasonable prices for working women to help them stay at work.
- Implementing the labor law which gives equal chances for men and women with regard to employment and pay, issuing new laws guaranteeing profitable work for both men and women, helping women who have quitted work due to pregnancy, giving birth, or taking care of children to come back to work.
- Adopting part-time system for women who have responsibilities at home but are willing to work.
- Providing comprehensive system to gather information on women work and issues.

Institutions and mechanisms accredited by government in field of economy:

1-Agriculture & Fish Production Promotion Fund:

It was created according to resolution no (16) for 1993. It aims at strengthening development efforts in field of agriculture and fishery. The Fund financed (206) projects in this field with a total cost of (2,287.135,235)YR since it has been established until the end of 1997. At the mid of 1998 the sum spent on projects was (66,4,554,000)YR. It is planned to finance projects over the two coming years with an amount of (2,050,000,000)YR.

Table (30) showing the number of families benefiting from the project

Year	beneficiaries	Cost & Fund contribution		accomplishment	%
1997	240	18.5(mYR)	25.4 (mYR)	15.42	100
1998	2500	110	100	88.6	88

2-Small Industries Development Unit:

Government is working for expanding small industries activities on economical basis and supporting them with fund required whether from local or foreign sources. It also cooperates with them by promoting, marketing, doing foreign communicating, and collective purchase process. That is for raising effectiveness of this activity and turning it to a source of foreign currency.

Table (31) showing loans

Beneficiaries	No of loans	%	No of loans	%
Women	325	39.9	18.9	4.9
Men	490	60.1	370,6	95,1
Total	815	100	389,5	100

3-Productive Families Program and Women Integration in Social and Economical Process:

This program aims at developing resources of the poor families by training them so that they can support themselves. It focuses on the following:

- Expanding the existing training centers and adding new ones so that the number of training centers become 40 distributed all over the country.
- Enhancing the project of women' integration in the economical and social process.
- Enhancing the Yemeni Council for Mother and Child.
- Supporting NGOs working in this field considering them as an element of building the civil society.

Table (32) showing number of training centers

Period	Centers	Disbursement			Graduates
		Foreign		Local	
		\$	YR m		
90-95	22		22	5.5	5188
96-97	31	55700	19	11,7	8788
1998	41	472000	5	46.2	10082
Total	41	527700	46	63,4	24058

4-Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank:

It was created in 1973. On May 1996 it gave loans to countryside women in the purpose of:

- -Getting countryside women to participate in the agricultural development.
- -Making use of the abundant womanpower existing in the countryside.
- -Simplifying procedures for countryside women to obtain loans.
- -Increasing income of the countryside family.
- -Bettering food level of the countryside women.

Procedures and practical trends suggested to private sector:

- Essential services of nurseries and kindergartens especially at workplaces like exemption from paying nurseries' fees and transportation fares, and providing foodstuffs for poorer female workers.
- Encouraging women to establish small industries especially divorcees and widows , providing sufficient chances for women to participate in scientific and technical fields with the objective rising their income.

Implementation in fields included within Beijing plan of action:

- 1) Enhancing women's making use of the projects in the remote rural area and urban areas as well as of financial services by enhancing ties between official banks and credit institutions (Social Development Fund, Agriculture and Fish Production Promotion Fund)
- 2) Making ties between financial institutions and NGOs and supporting creative loan exercises including exercises that relate to women training services.
- 3) A directorate concerned with gender issues has been created in the Central Organization for Statistics. It is responsible for collecting data classified according to sex and age about poverty and all economical activities, and putting statistical indications to evaluate economical performance from the point of view of gender, doing suitable statistical means to recognize work of women and their contribution to the national economy.
- 4) Implementing national policies supporting mechanisms of saving, insuring, and lending of women(Agricultural cooperative Credit Bank)
- 5) Designing special services for both countryside and urban women working in small or medium projects, especially young ones, by financially supporting their projects (Social Development Fund +Small Industries Development Unit +Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank)

From Governments side in collaboration with NGOs and private sector:

- 1- Providing training and retraining programs especially on new technologies, as well as services of low cost to women in field of business running, developing products, monitoring production, marketing, legal aspect of business through Vocational Training Fund.
- 2- Taking measures to guarantee continuous training for women at workplace including unemployed women or those who have quitted for any reason and wish to come back.

Table (33) showing women and men benefiting from loans of 95-97

No	Year	Number of projects		Total	Fem/male
		Male	Female		
1	95	82	38	120	46
2	96	112	119	231	94
3	97	57	37	94	64

Table (34) showing women projects from 94-98

Size of project	Year	Type of project	loan
Medium	94-98	Sewing	5 million

6-Women and Decision -Making

Wind of changes has been blowing on Yemen since 1990 when Reunification was proclaimed. As a result of that, democracy and multi-party system have come into being the matter which brought about some changes in the political life of women and Supported their rights in an effective participation.

1-Participation in election:

Only two women were elected to parliament in elections of 1997 and, 1993 out of members 301. Women vote in 97 election were (1,272,073) while in 93 they were (478790). This means that female voters increased by more than half.

However, it seems there has been deterioration of women presence in the parliamentary activities.

Perhaps, reasons for this are:

- < Political parties did not comply with their platform that encourage women to win in election .
- < A lot of women are affected by social thoughts which don't believe in an effective political life.
- < Inability of women to organize themselves as electoral and political force.
- < Social awareness is very low; and decision-makers are not convinced enough to share with a large number of women in parliament.

Therefore Beijing goals to achieve 30% of decision-making Posts are unattainable in the seen ran.

2-Participation in government:

We can not see, so far, a woman occupying minister post or governor post. There are no more than two deputies and three assistant deputies.

In general directorates, their participation is also symbolic and it dose not fit with Women's scientific level and efficiency.

There are only 95 female general directors out of more than 1000 male general directors.

3-Participation in Consultative Council:

No women at all in this council which has been appointed by president in 1997. It includes 59 male members.

4-Participation in Republic presidency and government Presidency:

Female workers in the Republic presidency are 40 including one consultant with A vice-minister degree, and 7 with deputy-minister degrees. This is only 20% of male workers.

In cabinet presidency , there are -for the first time ever-5 women presiding over technical committees with general-director degrees and above, since 97. Before this time . There were no women at this level.

5-Participation in political parties:

No women participation in the higher boards of people's General congress, Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), political Bureau of the socialist party or the other . Parties in the opposition.

However, at the next level of leadership we can find women participation as follows:

- In the permanent committee of PGC there are 35 female members out of 700 members.
- In shura Council of Islah there are 7 female members, elected on October 1998, out of 130-160 members.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Party includes 3 female members out of 103 members.

In the Socialist Arab Ba'ath leadership there is only one woman.

In the Central Committee of the Nasserite Unionist Party there are 4 female members out Of 74 members.

6-Participation in Diplomatic corps:

Up to time of writing this, no woman working as an ambassador even though there are 95 male ambassadors.

However, 1997 witnessed appointment of many female employees in diplomatic corps. There are now two women having the degree of charge d'affaires. 7 women as consultants versus 108 male. 3 women as first secretary versus 106 male.

4 women as second secretary versus 65. Two women as third secretary versus 21 men. And there are 83 administrative female attaches' versus 337 male attaches'.

7-Participation in Local Councils:

Up to the moment, law of the local governance has not been issued. It is this law which organize this question and will enhance women's participation at the local level.

8-Participation in Judiciary and advocacy:

There are 32 female judges one of them in the Appeal court, and two other in Personal affairs courts and the rest of them are judges in primary courts in comparison with 1200 male judges.

There are 35 female lawyers versus 650 male ones. According to lawyers' syndicate 1995.

There are not any women in the Supreme Judicial Council nor in the Higher Court.

9-Participation in the private Sector:

Figures show that women's participation in private sectors is very weak. There are only less than 30 businesswomen and they are not having own business.

It is a rule that a woman should have her money invested by someone from the household either the husband, father, son, or brother.

10-Participation in civil Institutions:

Non governmental organizations especially women-related ones encourage women to exercise various activities. Like children's issues, health care, and motherhood.

However, in the specialist syndicates, women presence is very symbolic. We can give as an example, Union of labour syndicates where there are 11 female members out of 115 members, i.e 10%. The rest of syndicates like lawyers, doctors, pharmacists, engineers, etc are not different from that.

Procedures Taken by Government since 1995:

Government has been taking some procedures to integrate women in public life. Of these are the following:

- Passing the women national strategy in 1997, after the first general women conference.
- Passing the strategy of adult education in 1998 for uneducated women benefit.
- Passing the national strategy for girls' education, for 1998-2010
- Passing the health strategy and caring for health of the mother and child.

All steps taken are to better women's conditions and they are in agreement with Beijing work 95.

- There has been an effective women's participation in preparation of the first five-year plan 96-2000. Four women were appointed in the Higher Council of Population which comprised 25 government officials 1998.
- In 1998, election law was amended so as to enhance women's participation in election.
- Women and statistics unit was created in the central organization of planning in 1998.
- Labor Ministry started to prepare a strategy for working women and vocational training.
- This strategy is to tackle impacts of structural reforms that affected women's participation in labour market.

Procedures of political parties:

They did witness nothing more than political communiqués about women's participation inside these parties. Their style of work did never change.

General Future Trend of the State:

Women in public positions are really in need for training and qualifying in order for them to take leading positions. We think that increasing awareness of women's participation in the political and partisan work is something essential to be present in all positions. It is necessary to create women pressing group for raising women issues to both government and opposition.

7-Mechanisms for Empowering Women

Mechanisms and programs calling for progress of women have been given obvious interest during 90s. There were government efforts contributing to creating such mechanisms. However, policies concerned with supporting them have been very slowly stepping on. They need further effective procedures enhancing them so as to be a part the comprehensive national development policy to which decision-makers only with a little support within plans and programs of sectors or those included in the five-year plan of government (1996-2000) or in the national conferences.

Level of implementing Beijing document:

1-National strategy of population:

The first national conference for population policy, crowning the project the national population strategy from which population plan of action (1991-2000) came, was held to implement goals of the strategy through scientific and practical steps matching with the social and economical conditions as well as with traditions, values, and culture of the Yemeni society.

This plan came targeting implementation of policies and programs of population in basic axes included:

- 1-Developing public health especially Mother and Child health.
- 2-Broadening education base and guaranteeing labour freedom for women and equity in vocational and training rights and encouraging projects social, cultural, and economical studies of women.

2-Women national strategy:

Strategy determinants:

- 1-Enhancing women position and promoting their role.
- 2-Reducing the poverty burden.
- 3-Literacy of women.

Strategy goals:

- 1-To rise efficiency of women in performing their role within family as wives and mothers.
- 2-To enhance their capabilities to contribute to and participate in affairs of their local and national societies directly or indirectly.

General policy of Yemeni women programs:

- 1-Supporting the positive values, traditions, and social customs with amending and renewing the negative customs and traditions to encourage the Yemeni women.
- 2-Encouraging Yemeni women to join regular education.
- 3-Providing women with knowledge and information along with skills to rise level of performance.
- 4-Guaranteeing integration of activities in field women development in general and women in rural areas in particular.

General Trends to Carry out the Women National Strategy

A- Poverty fighting and bettering standards of the poor women:

- In a view of the fact that women income play an important role in providing security and stability, this matter needs policies to develop incomes and more caring for women who are threatened with unemployment more than men especially because they are living in social backwardness and discrimination in job and training chances.
- Further caring for private sector so that it can help in establishing small productive factories.
- Supporting the project of the productive families to promote its performance level.
- Providing social care services like role nurseries and kindergartens as well as communication services.

B- Enabling women to education:

- Working on increasing the number of female students in basic education and female teachers' institutes.
- Putting mechanisms help to formulate policies and implement education programs in a way such as to achieve education equity between both sexes.
- Making a room for women in the field of vocational and technical training.

C- Health level rising:

- Combating spread of infectious diseases especially among children and women.
- Providing health care for women at age of procreation.
- Working on reducing deaths rate among mothers.

3-National Strategy for Mother and Child:

It has been passed according to the Cabinet resolution no (22) for 1998. This strategy came out with a number of findings in favor of activating the role of the Cabinet. This strategy was accompanied by a national plan dealing

with general issues, common tasks and responsibilities among governmental and civil sectors concerned with motherhood and childhood. Some of its objectives are to improve Mother and Child status and protect and care of them and provide all social, educational, and cultural services to them.

4-Project of the National Strategy of Girls Education

Principles and basics of the strategy:

- 1-No doubt that girls education is a real investment .It is through it that principles of justice and equity, nationally and internationally confirmed, can be realized.
- 2-Decentralization of planning and implementing projects of girls' education rise.
- 3-Sharing local societies with plans and implementation of projects of girls' education rise.

Objectives of the strategy:

- 1-Providing basic education chances for girls at 6-15 years old so that the enrollment percentage can be risen from 10.3% in 1997/98 to 86.1% in 2010.
- 2-Reducing the phenomenon of leakage among girls.
- 3-Improving quality girls' education by developing programs and activities meeting the actual needs of girls.

5-Project of gender strategy in field of agriculture and food security:

The idea of integrating gender means that women are equal partners with men in the development process. The countryside women a prominent role in food production and bringing up the cattle.

6- Strategy for developing Rural women:

- Building a solid base qualitatively quantitatively to produce food and animal wealth.
- Mobilizing the unexploited human resources in rural areas men and women.
- Assisting rural women to farm and bring up the cattle more effectively, and helping them get aware and skilled in field of using natural resources like lands, water, etc.

7-The national strategy for integrating youth in development:

This strategy calls for fairness and justice between male and female in all fields of life and abolishing all forms of discrimination against women.

Financial and Institutional Measures

Although there are many mechanisms and programs having to do with enhancing women 's role.However,they are still not enough.We shall mention some of the mechanisms that were established after 1995.They are divided into two parts governmental and non governmental:

1-Government mechanisms and programs:

1-1-General Directorate for working women Development:

It was established in 1997.It is concerned with working women issues.It is cared for by Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training,So far, no annual budget has been allocated for it.

Fields of basic activities:

- Drawing policies, strategies, and plans related to working women and rising their status and proposing legislation and regulations in connection with them.
- Collecting and analyzing statistic data about women status in labour market as well as kinds of employment in the various sectors.
- Revising legislation of work for protecting women rights in accordance with Arab and international standards.
- Employing women giving them facilities to join labour market putting and implementing programs for developing their skills with the objective of increasing their participation in the economical activity and social development.

1-2-The Women National Committee:

- It was formed according to a resolution by the Cabinet to prepare for the fourth world conference for women, 1994. It was reformed in 1996 according to resolutions (97-98-99). It included members from various bodies governmental
- Non-governmental, political parties, and social figures. However, the committee had to re-arrange its responsibilities by issuing a number of resolutions concerning tasks and reformation of the committee.

Fields of basic activities:

- Contribution to preparations for women projects by coordinating with the local, regional, and international organizations
- Participation in follow-up and assessment of implementation of women programs with the bodies concerned.
- Participation in conducting studies, researches, and surveys relating to women and families with proposing to develop the most effective ones of them in light of needs of life in the society.
- Contribution to spread legal awareness among women.
- Follow-up, implementation, and assessment of the strategies and policies relating to women with the bodies concerned.
- Putting proposals for women projects in the various fields.
- Holding meetings, symposiums, seminars, workshops, and conferences with the objective of protecting women from discrimination and exploitation.

1-3-Women Development Directorate at National Council for Population

It was established in 1998. It is supervised by the General Directorate of Planning of the National Council for Population. Its powers are restricted to collecting statistical data relating to women.

Fields of basic activities:

- Collecting statistical data to make use of them in preparations of social studies, surveys, and economical and developmental projects in connection with women.
- Finding out contact channels with the directorates concerned with women programs and activities in order to unify the common efforts and coordinate with them for implementing the population strategy.

1-4-Gender Unit for Projects planning at the Social Development Fund

This unit has been recently established (1998). It is cared for by the Social Fund for Development and Labor which provides support to small projects that give revenues.

Fields of basic activities:

- Encouraging women's participation in decision-making and evaluating for all development activities.
- Emphasizing on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women's participation in development activities.
- Enhancing creative activities which benefit women and keep line with development plans and priorities relating to women at national and regional levels.

1-5-Men and Women Statistics Directorate at the Central Organization of Statistics

It was established in 1997. It is now working effectively to coordinate with the directorates concerned with women affairs. To collect statistical data about men and women to ensure data base and indications on women.

Fields of basic activities:

- Caring for collecting statistical data in connection with both sexes.
- Coordination the bodies concerned with women and men issues.
- Studying and revising the gaps in statistical data that concern this field with trying to tackle them.

2-Non-governmental Mechanisms and Programs

2-1-The Social Association for Productive Families:

It was created on July 1997. It brings together 220 female members. It works at level of two governorates, Sana'a and Hajja.

Fields of basic activities:

- To support women graduating from productive families' centres by providing with job chances
- To rehabilitate women who have stopped from being trained.
- To create needlework places for girls and women by coordinating with the Social Development Fund.
- To market products of the productive families who are unable to market their products.

2-2-Women and Children Directorate at the Future Studies Centre:

This directorate was created by the of 1996. Its financial and administrative powers, however, do not fit with the nature of its work and the role it has to play and objectives it has to achieve. The annual budget of it amounts to 100,000YR. It so little that it does not go with the size of activities and plans of this directorate.

Fields of basic activities:

- Holding symposiums and seminars.

- Participating in the local, regional, and international conferences.
- Publishing researches and studies relevant to women and children issues.
- Coordinating with the Public Opinion Unit in its tasks.

2-3-Women and Children Development Association

This association was created in 1997. It is charitable and voluntary. It depends on the subscription of its members and donation of some businessmen for funding its programs and activities. Implementation of its various events is based on the mechanism of designing and marketing the projects in fields of its work.

Fields of basic activities:

- Implementation of health awareness programs.
- Presenting literacy programs.
- Providing beneficiaries with programs in connection with fields of social care especially the poor and needy ones.

2-4-The National Association for Women and Children Health

It cares for Mother and Child health. It was created in 1997. Its budget is 500,000 YR. It gets it from international organizations and private sector.

Main activities:

- 1-Meetings interested in women and children health
- 2-Presenting proposals for health care.
- 3-Conducting fields surveys in field of motherhood and childhood and organizing.
- 4-Health awareness for the targeted category, i.e. mothers.
- 5-Conducting vaccinations for children and mothers against incurable diseases like epidemic liver diseases.

*Furthermore, there have been many women charitable associations recently established. Some of them are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1-ALWED Women Charitable Association, | 2-ALSABA Women Charitable Association, |
| 3-AITHAR Women Charitable Association, | 4-ALKHELOD Women Charitable Association. |
| 5-ALBUSHRA Women Charitable Association, | 6-ALHUDA Women Charitable Association. |
| 7-ALMOOROWA Women Charitable Association, | 8-ALNEDHAL Women Charitable Association, |
| 9-Women Association for Sustainable Development, | 10-Arab SHAKAYAK Forum. |
| 11-Friends of the Disabled Association | 12-BEER AHAYAF Association |
| 13-BEER ALAZAB Association | 14-Yemeni Association for Medicines Using. |
| 15-Martyr Fadhal Institute. | 16-Women and Children Development Association |
| 17-Challenge Asso.for Caring of the Female Disabled. | 18-Emirates Joint Charitable Committee. |
| 19-Women and Children Association. | 20-Alkhal Charitable Association. |
| 21-MU'ERAB Social Charitable Association. | 22-Yemeni Association for Consumer Protection. |

Obstacles

- ❖ All these mechanisms and programs (Gos and NGOs) concerned with women affairs are lacking powers of decision-making because they are subordinated to sectors not completely ensured in their trends.
- ❖ Lack of having full-time administrators to do their work regularly.
- ❖ Ambiguity of the present and future strategies of these programs the matter which get them far away from achieving their goals.
- ❖ The wide gap between the planned activities and level of implementation.
- ❖ Most of these mechanisms are suffering from weakness of their cadres, they are not qualified and trained enough. This negatively affects on programs and implementation.
- ❖ Limitedness of the deep, analytical, comprehensive studies to determine the actual needs of these mechanisms with the objective of finding out what affect the. This means contribution to providing a database connected with programs aiming at enhancing women progress.
- ❖ Government budgets are often connected with projects funded from abroad and so are policies and goals of the funding agencies.
- ❖ Weakness of self-fund programs for activities and programs of NGOs which are often connected with typical programs not helping create the sense of investment in order to fund qualifying and training programs and other charitable events.
- ❖ Burdens of these mechanisms have been increasing due to increase of demands for services. Government support for women activities programs is little.
- ❖ Weakness of coordination between these mechanisms and governmental and non-governmental sectors calling promoting women services.
- ❖ Absence of this coordination at national level leads to weakness of influence of these mechanisms.
- ❖ Weakness of supervising, follow-up, and assessment processes the matter which affects the level of implementation.
- ❖ Unavailability of data on gender the matter which obstructs good planning.
- ❖ There still remains a need for further official and institutional support for women mechanisms and necessity of enhancing the relations with both Gos and NGOs. Because makes it necessary to raise issues

at high levels for taking appropriate decisions and achieving an effective participation in decision-making for women.

- ❖ It is very important to make the issue of developing women-related mechanism very clear in minds of leaders.

8-Women and Human Rights:

There have been numerous changes and developments in plans, policies, and legislation in Yemen since early 70s particularly after proclamation of the Yemeni Unity on May 22, 1990. These changes and transformations have always been keeping up with the political, economical, and social developments and updates. Perhaps, the most important points regarding women rights are as follows:

1-Strategies in connection with women:

*The National Strategy for Population issued in 1991 focused on necessity of improving and developing population-related legislation as follows:

-Looking into laws of personal affairs, especially those relating to mother and child rights, in the light of sublime Islamic doctrines, values, principles that guarantee fair and just rights for family and its members.

-Generalizing the application of the law that specifies the age at which females are allowed to get married (15 years). It is not applied especially in the countryside.

-Developing laws of labor and equal pay, social security, and nurseries, taking into account circumstances of working women in particular who are pregnant, giving birth, suckling, divorcees, widows.

-Developing laws and legislation that abolish individual behaviors causing environment pollution.

-The up-dated plan of action of population came up also with a number of procedures enabling women to participate in all fields and at all levels. It focused on:

One- Supporting implementation of laws that enable women to perform their duties as mothers, wives, etc, and effective elements in the society.

Two- Causing women to be aware of their rights provided for by laws and legislation especially laws of personal status.

As a matter of fact the National Council of Population has achieved concrete successes in implementation of these procedures by holding several symposiums, seminars on women and children rights.

The five-year plan of (1996-2000) came up with several policies and procedures relating to women. Perhaps, the most important ones relating to women rights are:

-To grant women a suitable opportunity to directly participate in decision-making process and in law formulating process. The plan demanded formation of a committee to do polls among women finding out their opinions about legislation related to them. However, this committee has not been formed up to date to carry out this badly needed task.

The National Strategy of Women issued in 1994 included the following:

-Striving for making women a socially effective force within the family and society in a way which fit with their numbers.

-Enabling women to participate in political life.

-Applying laws in connection with women.

-Amending laws that obstruct women march.

-Rising women awareness of their rights and duties.

-Rising marriage age to 18 years in the law of personal status.

National laws and legislation:

The laws and legislation of Republic of Yemen are derived from Islamic Shariah, be they civil, criminal, administrative, personal, or otherwise. They do not differentiate between men and women except in some issues that are provided for by Allah Almighty Shariah like inheritance, witness, marriage, and divorce. There were not any amendments in the constitution and laws, concerning women, mentioned in the former Beijing report.

However, there are some laws that the House of Representatives started to debate for amendments. They are as follows:

A-Labor Law: The current labor law no(5) was issued according to a Republican w decree on March ,9 , 1995 following persistent demands especially by working women. This law applies to all employers and workers except for those mentioned in a particular provision of this law. It included all benefits provided for by the civil service law. It much better than former laws which were unfair to working women. Perhaps, the most important item in this law is article no (5) states as follows:

"Labor is a natural right for every citizen with equal conditions and guarantees without any discrimination because of sex, age, race, color, faith, or language"

The fourth chapter of this law was devoted to regulating women work. More specifically, article no (42) provides for men and women are equal in all labor conditions, rights, and duties without discrimination. This law also emphasizes that women may not be asked to work at night except for Ramadhan or works specified by a resolution from the Minister. Furthermore, the employer who employs women shall be obligated to determine an apparent place in the headquarters.

B-Personal Status Law: This law was issued after proclamation of Unity, but there is a consensus having a lot of its articles amended.

Attempts have been done to amend this law when it was referred to Presidium of the House of Representatives-Islamic Shariah Laws Committee, Justice and Endowment Committee, after reviewing and taking remarks on by Al-Raydat Office for Advocacy along with Women National Committee. Remarks were on articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 42, 71, 136, 137, 149, 150, 157, 159.

Even though Islamic Shariah Committee report about the President of Republic 's letter concerning amendments was not much in agreement with the remarks forwarded by Al-Raydat and WNC. This means that institutions concerned with women issues have to contact with authorities and discuss amendments again and again to make the law meet the actual needs of women.

C-Social Care Law: It was issued on 1996 to take care of the orphans, poor, needy, women without supporters, family of everlasting absentee, missing, prisoner, who come out from prison, completely helpless, partially helpless, completely temporarily helpless, and partially temporarily helpless. All these categories include men and women.

Aids are given to these categories whether cash or in kind. The woman without supporter provided for by this law is defined as " every woman whose husband has died, divorcee and never got married whether or not having children, who is over thirty and never got married before, and a common condition for all these cases is that this woman has to be unable to work and having no any constant income."

D-Law no (28) for 1998 Concerning Literacy and Adult Education:

It includes (42) articles. The most important of which relating to men and women is the second one. It stipulates that there will be a typical training for both sexes aged at 10 -45 years in certain skills and traditional crafts by holding training courses not exceeding one year.

Article (2): Plans and programs of literacy and adult education in Yemen aim at :

- 1-Abolishing illiteracy among Yemeni citizens.
- 2-Ensuring chances for learners to pursue education till they are completely freed of illiteracy.
- 3-Connecting programs and activities of literacy and adult education with concepts of an integral system meeting male and female needs.
- 4-raising awareness level of learners culturally, socially, and politically.
- 5-Providing learners with different skills enabling them to find jobs.

Article (8):Training programs are provided through holding training courses with the objective of getting female trainees acquire skills in field of motherhood and childhood care, domestic economy, sewing, embroidering, tricot, and otherwise.

It is worth mentioning head of the Central Organization for Literacy and Adult Education is a woman. And President of the Republic leads the Higher Council of this organization.

Human Rights and Women at International Level:

Yemen participated in several women international conferences, and complied with a lot of international legal documents with some reservation.

It had useful and effective presence UN conferences for women in Copenhagen, 1980, Nairobi, 1985, and finally in the Beijing Fourth International Conference, 1995. Here are some the most important agreements that Yemen has complied with or ratified:

1-Universal Human Rights Declaration: It was announced on December, 1948. All members of the international family therein are firmly equal in rights and having humanitarian dignity forming the basis of liberty and justice and peace all over the world. It confirmed that ignorance of human rights has excited the humanitarian conscience. Therefore, Humanity has called for a New World in which human beings enjoy freedom of speech, and faith, and liberate from fear and poverty. It also emphasized on legal protection for those rights and liberties. It is considered to the highest common example among all countries and must be respected.

2- Abolishing All Forms of Discrimination against Women Convention

It was announced by UN General Assembly on December, 18, 1997. It calls for equal rights between men and women in all fields: political, economical, social, cultural, and civil rights. It also calls for enacting national legislation banning any discrimination against women, and recommends to take special measures for speeding up equity processes between men and women.

This agreement consists of an introduction and 30 articles, 16 of which are relating to policies of how to abolish discrimination against women in all fields.

Our country ratified this agreement on 30/5/1984 and had reservation on article 295 concerning dispute settlements.

There are some articles in this agreement that must be re-read:

Article (1) provides for equity between man and woman in all rights and liberties regardless of marital status of woman. This is in a disagreement with the personal status law that is still under arguments.

Article (2), cancellation of all penal national laws that form discrimination against women contravenes the penal law of women issued on 1991.

Article (9), man has the right to obtain his wife's nationality and so does woman. This contradicts with the nationality law that women demand to amend.

Article (16), man and woman are equal in marriage contract, rights relating to children, nursing, number of children. This article is in disagreement with the personal status law.

3-International Pledge for Economical, Cultural, and Social Rights:

It was approved by UN General Assembly on 1/12/1966. It entered into force on 1976. Our country ratified it on 16/11/1986.

4-International Pledge for Civil and Political Rights:

This was approved on December 1966 entered into force on 1976 in accordance with the article number (49). Our country ratified it on 16/12/1986.

This one, however, does not differ much from the one of economical rights mentioned above. Reader for this may not be able to differentiate between the two. This, as one can notice, has included more articles than that of economical (53).

5-Optional Protocol of the Discrimination against Women Convention

This Protocol consists of 24 articles that include the most important issues not mentioned in the Discrimination against Women Convention stemmed from the international agreements and documents that provide for equity between males and females. Starting from UN Charter, Universal Declaration for Human Rights, both International Pledges for human rights and civic and political rights, Vienna Declaration for human rights, and ending up with the Beijing plan of action that urged to begin working on this protocol as soon as possible.

Difficulties and Obstacles

In previous pages we have spoken of amendments of law in favor of women along with the shortcomings and weaknesses in some articles have not been amended despite demands to amend them. Here are some difficulties and obstacles:

- Illiteracy percentage is extremely high especially in countryside.
- Absence of awareness of rights and duties provided for by laws.
- Administrative complications obstructing implementation of laws.
- Not sharing women with formulating laws and decision-making at all levels.

-Not applying laws and punishing lawbreakers like those who never comply with marriage age, nor distribute inheritance, force girls to get married, have many wives without possibilities, not promote according to capability, etc.

-Domination of negative traditions and customs over women life.

-Looking at women as only housewives and not believing in their role in society building.

- Women never demand their legislative rights like inheritance, divorce.

- Women do not properly exercise some of their legal rights like voting and candidacy, and they turn away from some professions like lawyers and judges.

- Absence of women in Consultative Council.

- Insufficiency of media programs that deal with legal and legislative issues

Measures and means taken:

Governmental and non-governmental organizations have taken measures to overcome these difficulties and obstacles:

1-Qualifying women cadres in field of legal and legislative work and enabling women in this field to obtain promotion according to efficiency.

2-Working for creating an authority responsible for monitoring application laws and legislation relevant to women. Women should be represented in this authority

3-Specifying articles that obstruct women and amending them, with compliance with the international agreements in a way not contradicting with Islamic Shariah.

4-Putting the National Strategy for Population (1990-2000) into effect as well as the plan of action of population.

5-Putting a concentrated media plan for discussing legal, political, development, and family issues of women and urging various media to play their role in this regard.

6-Adding subjects to school curriculum about women and their role within the family and society.

7-Holding several symposiums, seminars, and workshops at governmental and non-governmental levels in field of law and legislation and their impact on women.

8-Preparing booklets and bulletins related to international legal documents regarding women and then publishing them.

9-Consultative Council should call on women for attending its debates and presenting some studies about women.

10-Increasing the number of women in House of Representatives.

9-Women and Media

Women's participation in media field (written ,TV, radio) is still not good enough and is not at level of the strategy of Beijing work .

Women participation in media is sufficiently encouraged neither by family nor by society, which still looks at working in media unacceptably and disparagingly.

We find the highest post occupied by a woman is deputy Minister even though number of women in field of media is increasing.

Media interest does not go beyond traditional issues like art of cooking and making home tidy. Rural areas women's share of media interest is still much less.

Creation of Mass Media College is one of the useful steps in field of media.

This college opened for a lot of female students whose number increases year by year.

However, admission policy does not keep up with the requirements of media and media cadres.

As a result of this, great number of graduates don't find jobs.

Despite speech freedom is guaranteed for both sexes without any constraints, unlike many other Arab countries, the problem facing women is the absence of authorities that organize women media efforts.

NGOs Role:

These organizations do not possess but newspapers and magazines which mostly belong to partisan syndicates and charitable societies. Most of them serve only these organizations and are almost empty of articles concerning women issues, and if any, them don't go beyond traditional issues.

Perhaps, the most outstanding work in field of women press is the coming out of two women -affair newspapers. The first is Al-Mara'ah (woman) newspaper, which was established in 1992.The 2nd is Al-yamania newspaper which was established in 1998.

Editor-in-chief of both of them is a woman. However, they are not widely distributed due to financial matters. Most editors of both are women.

Moreover, there are four quarterly magazines whose editor-in chief is a woman . They are :Mataba'at Alamiah, Alwatan, Women Studies, and Shakaek.

There are two women working as press attaches one at Yemen embassy in Egypt and the other in Yemen embassy in France.

According to available data, people working in media institutions 1997 are as follows:

female	male	
1	16	higher authority
38	457	first group
246	1631	second group
286	1191	third group
133	395	4 th group

* people working in media institutions in governorates:

female	male
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71	616
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*People working in Tv and radio in governorates:

Female	Male
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124	519
-----	-----

people working in Saba News Agency:

female	male
--------	------

50	324
----	-----

*people working in official newspapers:

female	male
--------	------

40	25
----	----

18	17
----	----

21	47
----	----

2	76
---	----

*people working in partisan newspapers:

female	male
--------	------

1	25
---	----

5	19
---	----

5	14
---	----

12	57
----	----

*people working in civil newspapers, women affairs:

female	male
--------	------

4	1
---	---

11	2
----	---

ALTHAWRA
ALGUMHURYA
OCTOBER
SEPTEMBER

ALMETHAQ
ALSAHWA
ALTHAWRY
ALSHURA

ALYAMANIA
ALMAR'A

10-Women and Environment

The general trends to implement Beijing work course for applying equity between men and women with regard to the environment plans and strategies.

Achievement in this field:

The Yemeni government put a strategic national plan in field of protection of the environment in 1995. This plan, however, did not take into consideration the sustainable development course which is environmentally sound to run the natural resources from the point of view of gender as it was decided by UN Conference for Environment and Development, International Conference for Population and Development, what came within the agenda of the 21st century, as well as results of the Beijing course document in 1995 in this regard.

Although the state has adopted several policies and programs for environment, it did never take into consideration the differences between both sexes in field of environment questions that care for men and women participation.

Obstacles facing implementation of the environment plans and programs:

There has been never improvement in women participation in putting environment policies since 1995. The reason why refers back to the following factors:

- 1-Absence of investment and environment services in cities, towns, and countryside.
- 2-Weakness of the institutions in charge of preparing and implementing the programs of environment preservation, besides lack of women representation therein.
- 3-Insufficiency of fund to boost the environmental institutionalization from the standpoint of regulation and information.
- 4-Retreating from sharing women with formulating the environment legislation so that they can respond to actual needs in the framework of balancing between sustainable environment and development considering women as influential and influenced element in this legislation.
- 5-Weakness of women contribution to environment projects at central and decentral levels
- 6-Absence of women contribution adequately in preservation and protection of environment.
- 7-Lack of environmental standards and measurements as well as weakness of the process of qualifying and training women in field of formulating environment policies and managing natural resources compared with what is given to men of training in this field. Women are subjected to marginalization and exclusion from participation in drawing general environment strategies and policies.
- 8-Weakness of the women national organizations participation in numerous environment questions with the exception of some attempts done by WNC despite the increasingly big number of organizations concerned with women issues.
- 9-Exclusion of women from playing leading roles in many environmental programs especially women roles in running awareness and guidance campaigns in which both sexes must participate. That is to guarantee protection of environment and distribution of sufficiently sustainable resources to families and local society. To lessen poverty which has been getting wider and wider as population growth gets higher and higher, unemployment high rate, substance, unreasonable depletion of natural resources and mis-exploitation of them by both sexes due to inexperience and unawareness of environment problems. In agriculture, there has been continuous concentration on Qat rather than the other crops.

No doubt, all these obstacles prevent from achieving objectives of empowering women and making them equal to men in several decisive environment fields. They also prevent from determining the national priorities which must be adopted from a gender point of view.

Future trends to implement equity goals between both sexes in field of environment and sustainable development:

- ❖ Enabling women to effectively participate in drawing general policies for all environment fields taking gender policy into account.
- ❖ Studying the existing condition of environment by collecting statistical data to find out differences between both sexes whither in drawing policies or in implementation, planning, follow-up, monitoring, or assessment.
- ❖ Making sure that planning for environment projects is done after doing consultations with both women and men.
- ❖ Necessity of equity between men and women when putting plans and when implementing them.
- ❖ Bringing about a balance between men and women working in the institutions concerned with drawing, implementing, planning, and assessment of environment projects.
- ❖ Studying achievements of programs to find out to what extent these programs have served both sexes.
- ❖ Helping countryside women have training, skills, and experience connected with tackling traditional harmful practices like random wooding, grazing, and sweeping away the soil leading to desertification.
- ❖ Making use of possibilities of the bodies concerned with collecting information and statistical data for having databases relevant to environment and sustainable development for using them in the interest of both sexes.
- ❖ Studying deterioration of environment and natural resources and their negative reflections on women.
- ❖ Analyzing relations and links among national institutions concerned with environment issues focussing on the specialist ones in this respect. More specifically on agriculture sector, health, environment, water resources, sanitation, industry, and fishery with a view to redraw the general strategies and policies in field of protection and improvement of the environment and evaluating the impact of that on both sexes.
- ❖ Encouraging participation of NGOs interested in formulating environment policies in order to determine the actual needs for public services connected with health and environment.
- ❖ Taking measures to reduce risks of environment to which women are exposed especially in countryside where women are more subjected to such risks, including all problems facing women taking the existing differences into account from the point of view of gender, being very important process for putting policies and programs of environment.

- ❖ Using water in a reasonable way by men and women especially men who misuse it for growing Qat. It should not be used from traditional sources but from sanitation, and be treated so as to reduce pressure over the fresh sources which are not renewable. It is necessary to women with putting water policies for they are effective and reactive element with these policies.
- ❖ Tackling sanitation problems to make use of it in irrigation, preserve water resources, and reduce pressure over consumption of the underground water.

11-Female Children Rights

In view of the interest given to categories, the strategy of population has given female education special interest especially in rural areas. And within framework of this goal the program of literacy has found a room in this strategy so as to reduce illiteracy to less than 50% among females and 30% among males by the year 2000.

1-Population plan plan of action:

The plan of action of population aims at doing the following:

- 1-To protect children from all forms of exploitation and violation of their rights.
- 2-To encourage children particularly girls to complete their education and stop them from early marriage.

Procedures:

- 1-To apply compulsory basic education to both sexes until the ninth level.
- 2-To spread awareness of the importance of not getting married early.
- 3-To insert textbooks of the vocational education into the curriculum of basic education.
- 4-To care a little more for protective medicine and activate the role of school health.
- 5-To insert gradually subjects of the procreation health into advanced stage of study for both sexes.
- 6-To activate role of organizations concerned with children rights, raise their effectiveness, and enhance compliance with implementation of the international law and agreements concerned with children rights.

2-The category of disabled Children Strategy:

Furthermore, the category of disabled has been mentioned within the plan, we mean by it that the government should pay attention to this category especially females. By providing them with job chances to make them participate in all walks of life socially, culturally, and economically. They must be qualified to depend on themselves.

Strategy goals:

To strengthen the family position and protect it from breakup.

Policy:

- 1-Putting policies and laws supporting family including human rights and children.
- 2-Making all development policies meet fully needs of the family and its members especially the weaker families.

Procedures:

- 1-To enhance means of balancing between responsibilities of work and those of home and family especially families who have young children.
- 2-To take measures required for abolishing early marriage (teenagers' marriage)
- 3-To prevent families from pushing their children to streets for begging by providing these families with support and means of legal earning.

3-The five-year plan for 96-2000:

To protect children, the plan included the following procedures:

- 1-To spread and increase services of Mother and Child up to 60% by the 2000.
- 2-To raise health covering rate for pregnant women care up to 60% by the year 2000.
- 3-To plan and implement training programs for workers in field of motherhood and childhood care before and during services.
- 4-To raise covering rate of immunization campaigns.
- 5-To treat malnutrition of children. Many steps have been taken to better nutrition of children aiming at:
 - A-decreasing anemia arising from not having enough of iron to 66% rural and 16% in urban.
 - B-getting rid of deficiency of vitamin A and iodine by the year 2000.
 - C-combating diarrhea.

The first five-year plan aimed at:

- A-Decreasing deaths rate resulting from diarrhea by half with respect to it in 1995.
- B-increasing using of drinking solution from 30% to 80%.

There have been some amendments with the objective of implementing this policy the most important of which are:

- 1-Procreation health has been included especially in field of mothers and children health as well as family organization.
- 2-Main subjects have been added to the topic of human resources (children, youth, old, very old, disabled and family as subtopic)

Sectoral strategies in the plan:

The National strategy of the National Council for Mother and Child Care which was passed according to the Cabinet resolution no(22)for 98. But this strategy was preceded by many programs, policies, events, and decisions some of which are:

- 1-Republican decree no(53) for 91 which included five goals to realize health and social and educational care of children and ensure their and mothers rights.
- 2-A national plan to care of Children prepared by the Yemeni Council for Mother and Child Care.

The plan is divided into:

First stage (97-98)

This stage centered on restructuring the Yemeni Council for Mother and Child Care.

Second stage(97-2002)

This stage is considered to be the stage of implementation through putting a timetable to carry out and report to the Yemeni Council for Mother and Child Care.

4-The national strategy for children labor

Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training prepared the national strategy for children labor in coordination with government institutions in connection .The summary of this strategy is that about 50% of school children are working in labor market the matter which contravenes the law of labor no(5) for 95. Hence,this strategy came to:

- 1-Fight this phenomenon and lessen its impacts by providing training courses fit with ages.
- 2-Amend the existing school curriculum by inserting to it vocational training programs helping girls and boys to confront poverty they and their families live in.
- 3-Put a plan of action of short and long term to apply this strategy.

5-Rehabilitation projects in Taiz and Lahj:

Taiz: 157 disabled children have been trained. There 22 cases in need for referring system and 35 in need for follow-up system. The program is expected to spread to other areas like Hajra,AIramada,and Hajer.

21 workers have been trained to start training process for the disabled in these areas. Work started in 95/96 and government is still more interested in expanding this project especially in Ibb where 1009 disabled persons were registered and Aden,1000fones and Abyan1700.

Lahj:63 disabled children have been trained . There are 86 cases in need for follow up system and 20 in need for referring system.

Role of civil organizations in local communities in protecting children:

They call in their plans and programs for protecting children and focus on spreading awareness of how dangerous it is for a child (male or female) to drop out from school. .They also point out to drawbacks of early marriage They call for literacy among women .Some of contributed to ensuring streetboys(girls),beggars,needy,poor,etc with services so that they can enjoy good living.

Obstacles facing children rights programs

- 1-Scarcity of resources for such programs.
- 2-Inability of government to comply with all vows.
- 3-Inability of tackling problems facing female delinquents or who are liable to delinquency as well as the disabled, beggars,streetgirls.
- 4-Guidance and awareness process is not enough.
- 5-Absence of coordination between institutions concerned with children rights.

Rationale for children development:

Children education:

A-school building: The location must be appropriately chosen.

B-One-class schools: To prevent female students from dropping out.

C-Removing obstacles confronting female children:

The economical difficulties facing families are the most important factor This means Ministry of education in collaboration with the other concerned bodies must provide children with their needs like school uniform, paying fees for them,school food,and training courses.

D-Integrating Disabled children into public schools: By giving chances to disabled children (male &female)to make use of the normal educational institutions which must have policies for this purpose.

E-Female continuation in education: Curriculums must include subjects connecting with developments needs and bringing phenomenon girls dropping out from school to an end.

F-Caring for training of the female teachers: This kind training of the main methods to abolish the phenomenon of leakage female children from schools especially in the rural areas, which are ruled by customs and traditions.

G-Programs for education from far: In spite of all efforts exerted by government to give chances for female children, there are still remote areas, poor and deprived, where its difficult for education to reach. To confront this problem, there must be an education system enabling people to learn from far.

Policies for promoting female children:

1-Pre-school policy.

2-Elementary education policy.

3-Female children literacy policy.

4-Female children labor policy, and

5-Policy for social nurture to abolish bias against female children.