



**GENDER
AND
SOCIETY**

Working Paper #3

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

**"WID, WAD, GAD"
Integration of Gender in
Development
*Valentine M. Moghadam***

**"Women and the Informal
Economy in Palestine:
A Feminist Critique"
*Nahla Abdo***

***Commentary: "Fixed Paradigms,
Changing Realities: Gender and
Development in Palestine"
*Eileen Kuttab****

***Commentary: "International Aid,
Women's Interests, and the
Depoliticization of Women"
*Rita Giacaman****



**Women's Studies Program
Birzeit University**

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Introduction

The Women's Studies Program at Birzeit University is publishing the "Gender and Society" working paper series in order to begin a discussion on critical issues in the study of gender relations in Palestinian and Arab society. The Program is also interested in contributing to the on-going debate on how to develop strategies, policies and practices to build a democratic Palestinian society of equal citizens whose political, social and economic rights are recognized and secured.

Valentine Moghadam's paper, "WID, WAD, GAD: Integration of Women, Women's Concerns, and Gender issues in the Development Process; A Review of the Literature and Policy Debates" and Nahla Abdo's paper "Women and the Informal Economy in Palestine: A Feminist Critique" were originally delivered during a 25 November-2 December 1994 workshop on "Palestinian Women in Society: State of Research and New Directions," held by the Women's Studies Program at Birzeit University. The commentaries by Eileen Kuttab and Rita Giacaman are based on commentaries also delivered during the workshop. The structure of the working paper reflects the Program's objective of interacting with, and contributing to, international feminist scholarship on the one hand, and scholarship on Palestinian society on the other, in a serious and sustained manner. Thus, this third working paper published by the Program, begins with a review of global debates on gender and development policy frameworks; the subsequent paper and commentaries attempts to critically link these debates to the current context of Palestine. The aim is on the one hand, to promote a debate about how gender might be integrated and transform the dominant development strategies currently being articulated in Palestine and on the other, to propose how the specific experience of women and development in Palestine can contribute towards these global debates. Ultimately, we believe it is only through this type of dynamic interaction, avoiding both parochialism and mechanical applications of paradigms developed in other contexts, that it is possible to generate more inclusive and equitable frameworks for development.

The present working paper is one of a number of working papers emerging from an on-going research project on "Palestinian Women in Society (PWIS)," undertaken by the Women's Studies Program in collaboration with other local researchers. The PWIS project is a gender-informed assessment of existing literature and research on post-1967 Palestinian society in four areas we consider relevant to women: economy, education, social entitlements and support, and

culture and society. The recognition of gender as a basis for social organization and a category of analysis has opened up important new avenues for scholarly research and for equitable and effective policy formulation. The Women's Studies Program hopes to make a contribution to such gender-informed research and policy formulation in Palestine.