

and similarities to be observed between societies as disparate as Nigeria, Malaysia and Nicaragua. I hope that the empirical data contained here can nourish some future, more theoretical work which may produce some useful generalisations about the differential impact of both crises and development policies on Third World women.

Reviewed by Amy Kaler, Chindunduma GHS, Shamva, Zimbabwe.

*Women in the World Economy, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)*, prepared by Susan Joeques, Oxford University Press, 1989 (161 pp, price not stated, ISBN 0-10-506315-5 pbk).

This ambitious book sets out to locate the position of women in the world economy and to examine how changes in international relations over the past 40 years have affected women in the developing world.

The book is divided into four parts, which examine women's position in a changing world, as well as changes in trade patterns, financial market activities and technology and their impact on women. It also looks at employment trends for women in agriculture, industry and services.

Part four summarises the emerging trends in the international economy, as they affect women. It incorporates an annex highlighting excerpts on women in development from the International Development Strategy for the Third UN Development Decade.

In a broad sense, international exchanges have been favourable to women's economic position, the book contends. Particularly in industry, there has been an increase in the gainful employment of women. Thus women have advanced most, economically, in countries that have developed as successful exporters of manufactured goods, mostly in East Asia.

But recent protectionist barriers in industrialised countries, deep international recession and the debt crisis have brought economic devastation in some areas of the developing world and now threaten the economic advances of women over the past 40 years.

The book concludes that the present international economic climate is

"fundamentally inimical to development" and points out that employment prospects, particularly for the younger generation and for women, have fallen markedly since 1980.

The book puts forward a number of proposals aimed at redressing these negative trends by promoting women's economic participation, including measures to improve women's position in these activities. It recommends implementation of the "Forward-Looking Strategies" adopted at the 1985 Nairobi conference to mark the end of the UN Decade for Women. The breadth and scope of the topic, it is necessarily a collection of generalisations, or pointers, rather than a conclusive study of the economic advancement of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The book is strengthened by a historical perspective which traces how the Great Depression of the 1930s deepened trade restrictions as developed countries erected trade barriers to protect their fledgling industries. The impact of the Post-World War II Marshall Plan in stimulating the fastest growth of industrial output in 80 years and creating job opportunities for women is explored.

But the work is spoilt by a number of irritating generalisations and a reluctance to present firm conclusions or offer any kind of theory to advance the study of women's work. Many of the more irksome assumptions are related to women's domestic role.

In her introduction, Susan Joekes describes, convincingly, how the introduction of capitalism led to intensification of the division of labour between the sexes, identifying men with the productive sphere and women with the reproductive sphere.

She notes the resurgence during the 1980s of traditional values and the notion of the home as the "proper place" for women, even in the developed world. But apart from noting that women's identification with domestic work leads to their limited contribution to material progress, Joekes appears to accept as given women's domestic role, which she qualifies as "of central value to society".

To illustrate this, one would have liked at least to see some attempt at evaluating the economic development. But instead Joekes focuses entirely on the more visible wage employment, which she argues, correctly, is the first step towards economic emancipation.

In discussing women's longevity, she cites "more moderate female consumption patterns" as a factor in women's resistance to certain diseases associated with smoking and dietary habits in more affluent societies. Without supporting this view with statistics, she appears to subscribe to notions of women as the "fairer" or "weaker" sex. There is no mention of how women have been

socialised into certain behaviour patterns.

In another example of generalisation, she highlights the success of Asia in bringing down birth rates without anywhere mentioning that in China, the most populous Asian country, government policy under Mao Zedong forced the restriction of births to one per couple - a highly unpopular policy with no parallels elsewhere in Asia.

Despite such flaws, the book is a valuable attempt to chart the influence of international economic factors on women in the developing world. In helping to set agenda issues, it will be of particular interest for women's groups and policy-makers.

Reviewed by Dede-Esi Amanor, Inter Press Service (Third World News Agency), Harare, Zimbabwe.

***Urban Low Income Housing in Zimbabwe***, Christopher J. C. Mafico, Avebury, Aldershot, England, (203 pp, ISBN 1 85628 226 0, price £32.00).

The provision of low income housing is a problem that has confronted the Government of Zimbabwe since independence and remains largely unresolved. This book by Christopher Mafico is an interesting historical perspective to the provision of urban low income housing in Zimbabwe. It is divided into eight chapters. Mafico begins by giving a brief literature review of literature Zimbabwe's low income housing and also by examining some perspectives. Although he attempts to review literature on Zimbabwe's low income housing this is, however, done very superficially as the author simply identifies previous research without stating the conclusions of these studies.

In Chapter 2 the author examines the beginning of urban low income housing as a consequence of the process of urbanisation. The author also examines the measures taken by the colonial settlers to weaken African agriculture and therefore force the Africans to migrate to urban areas in search of employment. These measures included the Hut Tax, Native locations Ordinance Act of 1906, Land Apportionment Act of 1930, Industrial Conciliation Act 1930, Native Registration Act of 1936 and the Vagrancy Act of 1936. The author argues that African workers were considered temporary visitors to urban areas, who were therefore expected to go back to their rural homes at old age or at the cessation of employment.

Consequently, the provision of housing for African workers was never taken seriously and as the author observes "the lack of a clearly defined housing