

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Revised Draft Final Report of the Thematic Household Survey
Time Use and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society

PURPOSE

This paper presents the revised draft final report of the thematic household survey on "Time Use Survey and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society". Members are invited to:-

- (a) give comments on the revised draft final report;
- (b) give views on key messages that should be conveyed when publicising the survey findings; and
- (c) consider topics for further studies.

BACKGROUND

2. Members considered the draft report of the Thematic Household Survey – Time Use Survey and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society at the special meeting of the Women's Commission held on 16 December 2002. Members noted that the survey was a ground-breaking exercise and was the first time where time use pattern of women and men was examined. The rich data set was considered to be useful for analysis in different areas, and could serve as a baseline for similar studies to be conducted in future.

3. Members had made a number of specific comments at the special meeting on the draft final report and the survey company, MVA International Ltd., was asked to follow up on suggestions made. The company was also invited to attend another WoC meeting to brief Members on the changes made to the report, identify constraints in conducting the current survey, identify themes of interest in the survey findings, and highlight in the final report issues

that merited further studies (with recommendations, as appropriate, on how the latter could be followed up e.g. in the form of a separate survey or focus group discussion).

REVISED DRAFT FINAL REPORT

4. In the light of the above, the survey company has prepared a revised draft final report. Major changes made in the draft final report include:-

- (a) inclusion of an overview of survey findings in the executive summary: this section gives highlights on noteworthy trends / themes identified by the study (e.g. financial circumstances and marital status were the key determinants in people's time use pattern and participation in society, homemakers had fewer resources and less time for personal pursuits as compared with other members of society, etc.);
- (b) inclusion of areas that merit further studies in the executive summary. Suggestions on how those studies could be conducted were also given;
- (c) additional data showing the key findings of time use studies conducted in some overseas countries (included in the executive summary and Chapter 1 of the report);
- (d) additional social and demographic profiles of certain type of people (e.g. employed persons, married persons and retired persons) and their use of time: these have been added to Chapter 2 of the report; and
- (e) analysis on homemakers' attitude towards taking up paid employment: this has been covered in Chapter 9 of the report.

WAY FORWARD

5. Subject to further comments by Members on the revised draft final report, it is **suggested** that the findings of this survey be publicised in end

June/July 2003. Given the wide coverage of the findings of the survey, it is **suggested** that in publicising the survey findings, emphasis should be placed on a few key messages.

6. The thematic household survey gives useful indications to support WoC's work of capacity building of women. For example, many respondents replied that they "had no time", or "were not interested" to participate in education and training, or in other social activities (such as recreational, cultural, religious activities, etc). It would be helpful to understand more fully as to the underlying reasons for such responses, so that WoC can better target the sectors of women most in need of capacity building, as well as design capacity building programmes that best suit their interests and needs. It is **suggested** that further studies (either in the form of separate surveys, or focus group studies) should be conducted in the following areas:-

(a) Capacity building:-

- to find out women's motivation in learning, their areas of interest, and reasons for having "no need" and "no interest" in pursuing continuous education and training; and
- to test out the objectives, use of radio mode and other parameters of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme.

(b) Factors hindering women's participation in society – to examine why respondents stated "no time" for not participating in social activities, and to examine factors or barriers (e.g. family burden) affecting their use of time that they did not participate in such activities.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. The survey company will give a presentation at the meeting on the revised draft final report. Members are invited to:-

- (a) give comments on the revised draft final report;

- (b) give views on key messages that should be conveyed when publicising the survey findings (para 5); and
- (c) consider the topics for conducting further studies (para 6).

Women's Division
7 May 2003