

IFHE World Congress 1927

Resolution

Role of Home Economics from the social Standpoint. Taylorism in the Organisation of Household Work

1. Household management teaching, family training and hygienic and social assistance, at all stages, as a basic for a general instruction for girls.
... The Congress is of the opinion that family and school must prepare the girls as fully as possible for their future mission and proposes a resolution that the school authorities should take care that the instruction given to girls be, at all stages, directed in the sense, employing for this purpose the different theoretical and practical exercises of school life ...
2. Terminology of household management teaching. The IV Congress proposes a resolution that every country shall make use of well-chosen words, simple, practical, national, without a superabundance of scientific terminology.
... To avoid the confusion constantly arising with regard to the names given to the different stages in the different countries, the IV International Congress of Home Management Training instructs the International Office at Fribourg to make on this subject an inquiry with the States and to present to the next Congress an index of the different stages of teaching ... an exact survey with full explanations of primary and after-school intermediate teaching, of higher, vocational and household management instruction, giving at the same time the age at which the pupils are normally admitted to these schools and the age at which they leave.
3. Development of Household Management Teaching since Paris Congress.
... The Members of the Congress warmly congratulate this [International] Office on its fruitful activity; they equally congratulate the organisers of the Congress and of the Exhibition in Rome.
... That the said Office may with the collaboration of the national Associations endeavour to obtain subsidies from the Governments with a view to forming the technical Commission asked for by the Paris Congress.
... That this Office may continue with the publication of the quarterly International Bulletin...

The Congress warmly congratulates the International Institute of Agriculture ...

It desires that the Institute should give a fuller development to this movement in collaboration with the International Office of Domestic Instruction and the international organisations for the betterment of rural life, for farmwomen's clubs and for family training. The Congress supports the resolutions proposed to former Congresses and the conclusions of the Scientific Council of the Institute concerning this matter.

The Congress warmly congratulates the International Commission for Family Training ... it recommends the creation of numerous parents associations which ought to join the said International Commission and recommends the *Revue d'éducation familiale*.

4. Means of facilitating the attendance of household management teaching to the girls of the working classes in town and in the country.

It is desirable that all means of propaganda be employed to promote the attendance of household management teaching ... School authorities must insist upon on obligatory introduction of the elements of family training and household management teaching into the education of girls at all stages ... The attendance of after-school home management teaching must be obligatory.

5. Vocational, domestic, agricultural and industrial training.

The Congress proposes a resolution that a very clear distinction be maintained between these two types of teaching [home management teaching and vocational training].

The Congress proposes a resolution that the teaching should adapt itself to the social needs of the rural classes as well as to those of the town people.

The Congress proposes a resolution that vocational agricultural and vocational industrial teaching should be equally favoured as to the number of schools and the salaries of the staff.

Moral training must not be neglected for domestical and vocational training.

All boys should be initiated to all sorts of occupations useful to the household, so as to make them love home life.

6. Normal and higher town and agricultural home management training
Teachers meaning to teach in the country must absolutely receive a special preparation of a structural agricultural inspiration.

For teachers having acquired the certificate of ability for teaching in primary schools, the studies in household management teaching must last for a period of at least two years.

7. Methods of town and rural home management teaching
 - ... That the different kinds of work to be done by a housewife shall be the object of methodical teaching according to the rules of pedagogy ...
 - ... That school be organised in such a way as to enable the pupils to exercise themselves in the different kinds of household work by an everyday application of what they have learned ...
 - ... The Congress proposes a resolution ... that this teaching may not be regulated or restricted by any narrow legislation or by any rigid school limitations, for to attain its aim it needs all its possibilities of initiative and a free field open to its enterprises.

8. Science applied to Home Economics. Aid of the universities and laboratories.

Science can do much for the advancement of household management teaching ...

Branches of science which are akin to it: biology, bacteriology, physiological chemistry, food chemistry, a knowledge of electricity, of mechanics, of psychology, political and social economy, etc.

It is necessary to create household laboratories.

It is advisable that staff of the normal schools dedicate themselves more fully to research work and acquaint their pupils with experimental work.

9. Fayolism and Taylorism in household administration and in the organisation of household work
 - ... It is desirable that the administration of the household and of household work should be simplified and made less burdensome ... the rationalisation of this work must be further studied and elements of these methods must be taught in all schools for household management.
 - ... It is desirable to institute everywhere national competitions in vocational ability between the pupils of the schools for household management in the towns and in the country.
 - The great number of branches composing the work in a rural household cause the farmwoman often to be overworked without her activity receiving a sufficient reward.
 - It is to be wished that her work be considered with a more equitable spirit and paid with more justice.

10. Influence of household work on the character of woman
Household work being the same time physical and psychical and developing in a just proportion woman's capacities, it results that it is favourable to the harmonical development of her character.

11. Hygiene and esthetics of household work
To obtain the best result out of household work the esthetics and the rhythm of the movements necessary for this work ought to be developed.

12. Part of the housewives in the fight against the high cost of living (time and money savings)
To reduce the high cost of living the Congress asks women urgently to diminish their expenses for dress and men those for alcoholic drinks and tobacco and all to restrict their expenses for pleasure sought out of home and so to simplify their lives.
It is necessary that housewives shall know how to do purchasing, that they avoid waste and contribute, as far as possible, to increasing the family income.
The social organisations must direct their action in this sense and household management teaching try to form youth in this spirit.

Final Resolution

The Congress recalls the resolutions adopted by the foregoing Congresses of Fribourg, Ghent and Paris.

... It thanks all the Italian members of the Congress who have contributed by their suggestions to the drawing up of these resolutions. Without wishing to meddle with the resolutions of a purely national character; it heartily participates in the wishes of these members for their realisation.

There were expressed to the President of the two Commissions of the Congress and of the Exhibition, to the General Secretary of the Congress, and to the Italian Government for their work and support.

Rome, Italy, 1927

(IFHE History Book "100 Years of the International Federation for Home Economics" 2008, pp. 391 - 394)