



## **IFHE World Congress 1953**

### **Resolution**

#### **Home Economics at the Service of Life: Its Contribution to individual and social Progress**

##### **1. Training of Home Economics Teachers in the Different Countries**

Congress draws the attention of Governments and of professional organisations to the fact that successful teaching of Home Economics depends upon the training of its teachers... It should be impressed on student teachers that their training does not end with the training college and that they should take every opportunity of consolidating their training and of developing a balanced outlook on their work. Regular contacts with other teachers at home and abroad cannot be other than beneficial: such contacts should be encouraged and systematically organised.

##### **2. Practical Methods in Home Economics Teaching**

At earlier Congresses, the general principles of activity methods were defined. Congress is agreed that these methods, by giving each child the opportunity to develop her own qualities, facilitate the harmonious development of her personality. ... While valid in principle, activity methods must be used with discernment.

##### **3. How can the Housewife get Help in her Domestic Tasks?**

Congress notes with approval the efforts made to rationalise housework and to make it less onerous. Despite the results obtained, due mainly to instructions which try to lighten household tasks, Congress believes that the fundamental element is still the capacity of the wife, who sets the standard in the home, to encourage her family to take an active part in household work and to share in the daily activities of the home and thus attain a true family feeling.

#### **4. The International Aspect of Home Economics**

FAO and its Contribution to Home Economics in the World. In November 1952, the Federation was granted specialised consultative status with the FAO.

The Federation affirms that it will always be glad to support FAO and its efforts to improve living conditions in countries where there is not as yet systematic teaching of Home Economics. The Federation, respectful of the rights and traditions of every nation, believes that the fulfillment of this long-term task depends on the establishment of indigenous groups of interested people in the different countries. In this spirit, Congress will continue to collaborate with and, if desired, to advise FAO.

#### **5. The Careers for which Home Economics is a Preparation**

Having considered the careers to which Home Economics training may lead, Congress observes a tendency towards ever-increasing specialisation in occupations outside the home. Such specialisation does not however enter directly into domestic work as such ... Congress appeals to all who have influence on public opinion to show that household work is in no way inferior to other occupations open to girls. Congress, recognising the services rendered by home helps, particularly in densely populated areas, commends their recruitment and training to the attention of the public authorities, of the social services and of those concerned with Home Economics. Congress observes that at the present time study of the domestic sciences prepares not only for the teaching profession but also for numerous professions in industry, commerce, research, institutional management, the social services, etc. These professions contribute greatly to the well-being of the individual, of the family and of society. On this account, each of them in addition to its own particular specialisation, involves the same requirements as does the teaching profession.



## **6. Home Economics Courses for Adults**

In view of the great services they can render, Congress welcomes the development of courses for adults in rural as well as urban areas. Congress believes that these courses should not be confined to the economic and practical aspects of the home but should stress the social importance of sound family life. It is important that teachers engaged in such courses are specially trained and have adequate experience of every-day life.

Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 1953

(IFHE History Book “100 Years of the International Federation for Home Economics” 2008, pp. 396 - 397)