



IFHE World Congress 1963

Resolution

Home Economics Educations to meet changing World Conditions and Needs

Suggestions and recommendations selected from Reports of the Discussion Groups:

Food and Nutrition

Educational efforts must concern the production, preservation, distribution, and consumption of foodstuffs. Education must stress one or other of these aspects according to the prevailing conditions. Our programmes will in fact always be dependent upon the economic and social conditions of the country, region and family.

[The housewife] should be regularly informed of scientific discoveries in the field of nutrition. An urgent need is witnessed everywhere for objective information, without any form of propaganda.

It is necessary to make untiring efforts with a view to simplifying the complex questions of nutrition, to establish instructions and advice for the public and to adapt general scientific principles in relation to a particular economic situation.

Home Economics teachers are responsible for maintaining liaison between consumers and producers, on the one hand, and between scientific knowledge and its daily practical application on the other hand. The adaptation of Home Economics education to changing world conditions is an aim of utmost importance.

Every teacher should make it her duty to complete her knowledge and to keep abreast of scientific progress.

Sound cooperation between the specialists of all branches of domestic economy – popular diffusion of information, Home Economics education at all stages, training of the teaching body, industry, publicity and research – offer the finest guarantee for the solution of our mutual tasks. Everybody has the right to a healthy and pleasant diet. In view of this, children and adults, men and women, all are in need of information on food.

Food, a special branch of Home Economics, has the same aims as the latter: the formation of independent, deliberate and responsible persons.

Housing

There is a need to get better contact and understanding between the Home Economists and architects and their schools.

An international publication informing about new findings and research in the field of housing would be very helpful.

Conclusions and Wishes: It is necessary to start teaching of housing already to the young children and to extend instruction to adult groups in order to reach the different interests and different degrees of comprehension. Basic attitudes of varying groups of people to be investigated and more enlightened attitudes developed. New building techniques to be encouraged and people encouraged to accept them. Knowledge gained by research workers should be available to all.

Final Recommendations:

- 1) Home Economists, sociologists and architects should work together as a team in planning housing in order to meet both the physical and emotional needs of families.
- 2) More Home Economists need to be more adequately trained in the field of housing.
- 3) Home Economists need to participate more in community planning at the policy making level.
- 4) Home Economists need to communicate more effectively so that their contribution in the field of housing will be recognised.

Family Life

Psychological knowledge allowing members of the family to understand each other and people outside the family to a greater extent, is finally more important than technical knowledge and manual proficiency to which we devote much time. The active participation of individuals in syndical life, civic action, social and religious activities has great influence on family life and the knowledge of these factors of existence should therefore form part of the preparation for life.

Even though fundamental differences exist between the various countries, present developments tend more and more to encourage women to work outside the home, by aptitude, taste, vocation, necessity or need of material security. It was felt that although the presence of the mother in the home is particularly desirable whilst the children are young, the employment of women outside the home is not necessarily incompatible with the preservation of the fundamental values of family life, as the educational qualities of the mother seen to be of greater importance than the amount of time she spends in the home.

A serious domestic training is the essential basis of Home Economics education from the professional point of view.



The number and variety of these professions will continue to increase in view of the evolution of the way of life. Home Economics education must therefore take an important place among the subject taught. In order to provide Home Economics with the entire human and social value, the technical formation of the Home Economics specialist should be solidly supported by a sound foundation of character and spirit.

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(IFHE History Book "100 Years of the International Federation for Home Economics" 2008, pp. 398 - 400)