

Preface

The Pan-Commonwealth Specialist Conference on Non Formal Education for Development held in New Delhi in February 1979 set in motion a series of projects on different aspects of non formal education in the Commonwealth. The vital significance of women in development was recognised by the establishment in 1980 of the Women and Development Programme in the Commonwealth Secretariat with a brief to support the efforts of governments to enhance women's role in development through improving employment opportunities and training.

The present study is one in a series of several undertaken by the Education Programme to provide information about education-related issues concerning women and girls and development. It presents a sobering picture from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka of the difficulties faced by women in development, but it offers considerable encouragement in its account of what can be achieved by women when given the opportunity.

The case studies were collected and edited by Dr. Madhuri Shah, Chairman of the India University Grants Commission and former Vice-Chancellor of the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University, Bombay. We are most grateful for her work on this collection since she has been able to show even in this tiny sample something of the immense contribution that women make to development worldwide, giving substance to the claims of the book's title "Without Women, No Development."

Peter R. C. Williams
Director
Education Programme
Human Resource Development Group