

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part One

Overview of trends in achieving gender equality and women's advancement

The Kuwaiti Constitution of 1962 seeks to safeguard the rights of Kuwaiti women and encourage their participation in action for social development, as provided for under article 26, which states:

"Everyone is equal in human dignity and has the same general rights and duties before the law, without distinction on the basis of sex, language, origin or religion."

The Constitution, which guarantees women the right to education, health care and so on, has been supplemented by a series of laws and statutes aimed at strengthening and affirming the rights of women in all personal, social and economic spheres. The Civil Service Law in particular provides women with the

Part Two

Financial and institutional measures

The State continues to provide financial support for women-specific programmes and policies, allocating budgets to initiatives aimed at enabling Kuwaiti women to contribute to the social development process on the same footing as their male counterparts. By Decree No. 256 of 1994, the Council of Ministers adopted a budget for a State project costing some 505 million Kuwaiti i i i

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Recognizing the importance which the State attaches to planning for a

future in which the individual will be required to support himself and his family

for himself and his own living, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, in cooperation with the Endowment Fund for Family Welfare, has designed a project called "By My Own Efforts" which is directed at women of working age (between 14

Trend in the number of posts held by women as a percentage of all posts at the Ministry of Education over the period (1995-1998)

Position	1995/1996		1997/1998		Percentage increase*
	No.	Percentage of posts held by women at this level*	No.	Percentage of posts held by women at this level*	
Leadership positions	-	-	-	-	-
Management positions in the Office of the Ministry	160	35	170	40	10
Management positions (schools)	760	67	830	67	3
Technical positions	1 023	75	914	78	13
Administrative positions	1 020	79	1 901	83	28
Ancillary positions	76	8.6	8	58	58
Total	3 039	62	3 853	69	10

*Translator's note: These statistics do not add up.

The number of management positions held by women at the Ministry of Education has risen significantly and by as much as 10 per cent. The number of women at the Ministry occupying management positions in schools (headmistresses) has also risen by 3 per cent, there has been a 28 per cent increase in the number of women working in administrative positions, while the number of women working at various levels is in the order of 10 per cent, providing women with an 10 per cent increase, reflecting the efforts of the Ministry to provide women with an 10 per cent increase.

Increasing numbers of Kuwaiti women are now entering the media. The media has also been used as a platform for the promotion of women. There are women chairpersons of boards of directors. The Assistant Deputy Minister for Social Information is a woman and there are women owners and editors-in-chief of several magazines.

Both sexes have equal access to education. The University of Kuwait has established a media studies department offering courses in various aspects of the media and organizing, through the Ministry of Education, media studies exchange programmes and study grants for both sexes.