

Children Often Lack Guidance And Care When Mothers Work

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Do you think that married women with children should work outside the home? I have just read a report of a meeting of experts in the East, stating that there was no relationship between working mothers and juvenile delinquency or family disorganization. On the face of it, this strikes me as strange. I'd like to read your comments.

I don't think we have to depend upon experts to tell us where mothers with small children should spend their time.

By their very nature, children need affectionate care, instruction, training, guidance, and discipline if they are to develop normally in our society. Although fathers may serve as substitutes for parents in some ways, they normally cannot supply the love, warm personal interest, and sense of belonging and being wanted that children require.

No advanced societies have ever been able successfully to replace mothers in this regard, though the Russians tried to do so for a time and it appeared that the Chinese Communists are making another attempt.

Before giving a complete answer to your question, it may be useful to look at the present situation in our country. Participation in our labor force has continued to increase steadily since World War II.

Currently, a little over half (11.8 million) of the women in the labor force are working wives with their husbands, whereas only one-fourth are single, and somewhat less than one-fourth are widowed. Before World War II, only 30 per cent were married women, while close to half were single women.

This change resulted primarily from the greatly increased rate of labor force participation among married women, though the currently larger percentage of women who are unmarried was also a factor.

The highest labor force rate among married women is in the 35-45-year age bracket. This group is most available for employment since they are past the main childbearing period but have not yet approached the usual retirement age for workers.

Nevertheless, some 20 per cent (285 million) of the mothers of preschool age children and over 40 per cent (4.65 million) with children between the ages of 6 and 17, were in the work force as of March 1958.

It is estimated that about one-third of the employed married women are year-around full-time workers, while the rest were in part-time or part-time employees.

There are about 2 million children under 6 years of age whose mothers are working full time.

Roughly two-fifths of these children were taken care of by relatives other than the parents, including older children in some cases. Another fifth were looked after by

Reds Urge Law Against Church

New Delhi (RNS)—A Communist-sponsored bill prohibiting the Roman Catholic Church or any of its "ecclesiastical personnel" from engaging in political activities was introduced in the Lower House of the Indian Parliament by Deputy T.B. Vittal-Rao.

The bill was regarded in political circles here as obviously having been prompted by the role played by Catholic leaders in the recent popular agitation against the Communist regime in Kerala.

It provides that anyone violating the provisions of the proposed law should be publicly warned and his name published in the official gazette.

In a statement supporting the bill, Mr. Rao charged that Catholics have recently been increasingly active in politics.

This is contrary to the concepts of a secular state and therefore should be restricted in the interests of the state," he said.

Berlin Center

Berlin (NC)—The Berlin Open Door Catholic Information Center here, has had 15,000 visitors in its first year of operation.



their own fathers or mothers who either worked different shifts or whose working conditions were such as to permit the children to stay with them. About one-fourth of the children were cared for by neighbors or other non-relatives, and only around 5 per cent were placed in "group" care centers, such as day nurseries, nursery schools, settlement houses, etc.

We know very little about the cause of juvenile delinquency in general, and it would be very difficult to show the connection between working mothers and delinquency unless careful studies were continued over a period of years, since delinquency may not appear at once.

The same observation applies to family disorganization—this may take years to manifest itself clearly enough to be studied. Also the mere fact that a mother does not work, quite the home does not prove that she's doing a good job at home!

In general, mothers with small children should not be employed unless there is no other way to provide for the children. In such cases mothers must take particular care to develop the affectional and emotional aspects of their relationships to their children—either the child or the adult live by bread alone.

A full-time worker, however, will find it extremely difficult to give her children adequate care and attention, so that only very serious reasons can justify such employment.

If mothers have such an important role to fulfill in

War Against Misery

Rag Picker Priest In Peru

Lima (RNS)—Rich and poor of this historic city of the Kings which was the home of St. Rose of Lima, the first canonized saint of the New World, joined in an unprecedented welcome to a humble Capuchin priest from France.

He brought with him a message stressing the vital importance of Christians everywhere joining in the battle against human misery.

Abbe Pierre, who has become famous for his work on behalf of the poor and homeless, was in Peru during a tour of Latin America to promote the International Institute for Research and Action Against World Poverty which he founded in Geneva in 1957. He had previously visited Argentina and Bolivia.

News of the abbe's impending arrival from Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, brought crowds to the Lima-Bo Airport, where the visitor was formally greeted by Auxiliary Bishop Lopez-Damero, Beldio on behalf of the Lima archdiocese.

Although he had come, as he put it, to speak hard words about the rich and the poor, Abbe Pierre found everyone from President Manuel Prado y Ugarteche to the poorest "obrero"—ready to extend a hearty "bienvenido" or welcome.

ABBE PIERRE'S schedule here included visits to the city's "barriadas"—collections of literally hundreds of wretched houses, made of tin, paper and mud, that have grown up around many South American cities as country people flocked there in search of work.

Earlier, during a four of slums in Arequipa, in which thousands of the poor live in sub-human conditions, the abbe had been moved to exclaim: "This is worse than what we had in Paris." It was among the poor and abandoned of the French capital that the priest's work had now become a worldwide apostolate to help the suffering and destitute.

At a press conference, the priest reported that his movement now embraces six "Communities of Emmanuel" in France, five in Belgium, one in Switzerland, four in Japan, and one each in Lebanon and Canada. Moreover, he said, beginnings have been made towards other foundations in Uruguay, Argentina and Morocco.

Abbe Pierre stressed that one of the principles of his movement was that the poor themselves should help the poor.

"An aimless done by a person of importance is indeed something," he explained. "It is certainly noticed and commented upon. But when a charitable act is done by one who is himself in need, the challenge is greater. When such acts are done by the poor and are motivated by love, this produces a

certain psychological shock capable of moving the hearts of a large number of people."

Abbe Pierre made a special appeal to young people to join in the war against misery.

"In the world today, in the countries called free," he said, "it is necessary to convince youth that war has already been declared—a war against misery. This is the war which is going to decide the future. We ought not to fear a war with atomic bombs which perhaps will never be unleashed for fear of the

consequences. We must rather combat the fatal misery in which so many live, and for that we need young volunteers."

Abbe Pierre's activities in Lima included a major television address, celebration of an evening Mass in the cathedral, and a meeting with priests who work in the barriadas, a public meeting at the Municipal Theater, and an address to 3,400 persons attending the first Catholic-sponsored Peruvian Social Week.

Schrafft Man To Be Missioner

Syracuse (NC)—Gerald M. Shattuck of Syracuse, a member of the family which holds a controlling interest in the Schrafft's restaurants chain, has announced that he and his wife plan to start training September 1 at Paterson, N.J., to fit themselves as lay missioners.

Mr. Shattuck was until July 1, manager of the Syracuse Schrafft's. He said he and his wife will study at the training center of the Association for International Development (AID) in Paterson, N.J., for mission work either in Africa or South America. They will take their three-month-old son, Gerald, Jr., with them.

Wisconsin Rules Out Released Time Program

Milwaukee (NC)—Wisconsin public schools have been ordered to stop released time religious instruction programs because the State Attorney General has said they violate the state constitution.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction George E. Walton sent a letter to all school boards warning them to bring their programs in accordance with the (state) constitution.

Under the released time program, pupils are released during the school day to attend religious instruction classes held off the public school premises. Technically, while the pupils are in such classes their public school day is still in session.

Atty. Gen. John W. Reynolds held that the program violates the state constitution because it uses the attendance regulations of public schools to facilitate attendance at religious instruction.

(The U.S. Supreme Court has held that released time religious education programs do not violate the Federal constitution. Several states have not amended their own constitution to conform with the court's ruling in the case of Zorach versus Clausen.)

TV Priest Named Oxford Chaplain

Oxford (RNS)—Father Michael Hollings, noted "TV priest" has been named by William Cardinal Coffey, Archbishop of Westminster, as chaplain to Catholic students at Oxford University.

He will replace Msgr. Velenina D. Elves, who retired from the post last May after having held it for nine years.

Educated himself at Oxford, Father Hollings, 37, served in the Army in World War II, winning the Military Cross in North Africa. He was released from military service in 1946, and went to Rome to study for the priesthood at the Beda College for late vocations.



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