

# AN EDUCATIONAL ROLE

## Contributions Of The Women's Organizations To The Adult Education Movement In The Philippines

By

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DU E to the fact that the future of a nation does not wholly rest on the enlightened youth but also on the education of the adult population, the adult education movement has taken on more meaning and is receiving the cooperation and support of educational agencies and social organizations. In our country, the women play a very important part in every progressive movement and it will not be amiss to say that the objective of adult education, such as "the training for home life and health, citizenship training and adult responsibility for national security as well as vocational guidance", has been initiated by women's organizations long before the adult education program has developed tangibly as it now has. Outstanding associations here such as the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the Catholic Women's League, the Asociación de Damas Filipinas, the Philippine Association of University Women, the Filipino Association of Nurses, and the Young Women's Christian Association, may not have been organized for adult education purposes but they are all efficient and vital agencies for it. They are each one an educational unit for the cultivation and promotion of the education of our adult women population. Each one is a training ground for dynamic citizenship, training their members to take their places more efficiently and productively in the social group. These associations have been organized for civic and social service and one must admit that the organizational life of a community presents the major opportunity for adult education. Their projects and activities are

generally confined to the practical aspects of the immediate home problems and membership in the associations stimulate the women to think more carefully about them. These organizations, become a center where "community visions are conceived and pursued, where friendships are formed in community tasks and where the women find the revivifying experience of quickened thoughts and associations", an experience that is not found in the passive life of a small barrio or town, or in the active life of a city.

In their program of activities, the different clubs and associations mentioned above figure most prominently the education of the adult woman:

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The National Federation of Women's Clubs, because of its extensive organization, has perhaps the greatest facilities to help in this work and covers a greater field of all the organized women's clubs in the Philippines. The Federation counts with provincial federations, local women's clubs in the towns, all in all representing 500 clubs. A few of the outstanding projects and activities in its program of work are:

1. *The Diet Kitchen*—This is based on the idea of a community kitchen. This project aims "to show how house-keeping can be improved upon with its present resources, to emphasize the advantage of

cooperative buying, to train women how to prepare balance diets for their families and ultimately to help them with their small income to evolve a fairly satisfactory way of home life."

2. *Literacy Campaign*—In order to help reduce the thirty per cent illiteracy in the Philippines, literacy classes have been held both in the provinces and in Manila. Several

reading centers have been organized in Manila so that graduates of the literacy classes may be encouraged to read during their leisure hours. Such an interest has been aroused by the Federation in its literacy booth at the Philippine Carnival of this year, that in ten-days' time over 300 came to the booth for training and invitations from teachers, municipal officials, doctors, nurses and landowners were received to visit their towns so that the campaign may be extended.

3. *Better homes*—Realizing that the homes are the main-  
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