Health booklet ready for distribution

WAND has completed production of “Women’s Health - For Wellness”, a booklet devoted to women’s health issues, and providing information which will assist women to take charge of all aspects of their health and their lives. It is one step in the process to continue to educate Caribbean women, particularly those at the level of the community, on the need to maintain a state of “wellness” and to recognise that all women, regardless of their status and condition in society, have the right to proper health care as “the enjoyment of this right is vital to their well-being as well as their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life”.

(Beijing Platform of Action).

The work, which speaks specifically to women’s reproductive health, was inspired by a UNFPA-funded project conducted by the Women and Development Unit in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines in collaboration with the local Family Planning and Planned Parenthood Associations. Under this project, mainly rural women, who had very little access to information on human sexuality and women’s reproductive health, were trained as trainers who would take back the information imparted in training sessions to the women (and men) in their communities. As it is intended to complement the existing literature to be found in local family planning/planned parenthood associations, it is hoped that it will be accessible through their local associations in the subregion.
WAND enters new research areas

WAND has introduced two new areas of research to its work plan. In Barbados, data is being collected to help create a national register of persons with disabilities, with specific emphasis being placed on the condition and circumstances of women with disabilities. A programme of activities for the advancement of women with disabilities will be developed based on this data.

In Jamaica, research is being done on the circumstances and condition of women in Fort Augusta Prison for drug trafficking.

“Parenting - the Naked Truth” workshop to help in socialisation process

A new dimension to WAND’s outreach work will be the sponsoring and hosting of a workshop, “Parenting - the Naked Truth”, in July, for parents of children attending the Bay Primary School in Barbados, which is an a lower socio-economic community.

WAND feels that it is necessary to work with children and parents because some of the problems that young people face can be addressed in the early stages of development as part of the socialisation process. The Tutor/Coordinator is an affective educator with 10-11 years-old children at the school.

Trophy for pupil’s anti-dengue campaign

WAND donated a trophy to students taking part in an Anti-Dengue Awareness Campaign in Barbados. The trophy was for the best poster (on the awareness of dengue fever) done by a girl from Pine Primary or Parkinson (secondary) School. WAND is located in the Pine community and this gesture is part of the Unit’s community outreach programme.

A Sobering Thought

It is not how much we posses which determines the quality of life.
It is that inner quality called “character” which defines us best.

School of Continuing Studies launches country conferences

WAND participated in a conference in St Kitts, “Beyond Walls: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives”, the first in a series of country conferences focusing on issues relevant to the particular territory. The conference May 1-3, was organised by the School of Continuing Studies and is one of a series scheduled for all non-campus territories of the University of the West Indies. WAND is a part of the School of Continuing Studies.

Management training for Antiguan women

Antigua’s Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre received the support of the Unit in hosting a training programme on sustainable income-generating agriculture-based activity and management for 20 women.

They received training on how to manage and market a small business project and are expected to begin activities utilising local herbs, spices and small livestock.