

Filipino Women in Public Affairs

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Printed in the Philippines**

ISBN 971-1014-05-1

**Published by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women,
1145 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila, Philippines**

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Introduction

Recognizing the indispensable role of participation in policy decision-making in elevating the status of women, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted in Mexico in 1975 recommended specific measures to accelerate women's participation in politics at the local, national and international levels. Thus, one of the major goals of the International Women's Decade in the Philippines is to increase the participation of women in politics and other decision-making posts. Again, the 1980 Mid-Decade Conference on Women further urged governments to undertake special activities to achieve equitable representation of women at all levels in the government.

True to its commitment of integrating women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, the national machinery for enhancing women's affairs in the Philippines, has been monitoring implementation of laws affording equal access and opportunity for both sexes in all fields.

This report attempts to discuss the participation of women in public affairs as decision-makers within the sphere of business and home management, politics, civic life where they are directly or indirectly involved as public officials, voters, political candidates and citizens. Section A presents women in top level positions in the government both in elective and appointive as well as in career executive positions. Reference is also made to women assuming leadership roles in the private sector. Section B reports on women in middle management in the government and private sector. Section C describes women as individual, family and community decision-makers where they play political roles and participate in decision-making for national development as electors, home managers, civic/community workers and as an influence group. The last part of this report gives an assessment of the roles and status of women in public affairs during the Decade.

I. WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A. Women in Top-Level Positions

1. Public

The 1973 Constitution of the Philippines grants to men and women political and civic rights including the rights to vote¹ and to run for and hold public office.²

In politics, women play dual political roles in the country, as qualified voters and as candidates to elective and appointive positions in the government service. While they have gained substantially in other fields of endeavor Filipino women are slowly gaining recognition as public officials. Already, there are positive signs of improvement with quite a number of elected and appointed women who have successfully made their way to the top.

a. As Elective Officials

Elective officials assume a wide range of decision-making responsibilities particularly in the initiation, formulation and implementation of laws at the national, local and also international levels.

1) National Level

Under the 1935 Constitution, which was still in force in 1972, senatorial elections were held every two years for a six-year term with one-third (eight) of the 24-man Senate elected at large, while Congressional elections by district in the 104-man House of Representatives were conducted once every four years.

The following COMELEC figures reveal the number of women elected in the Congress from 1946-1971:

Year	Position	No. of Women Elected	No. of Position to be filled	Total No. of Women Senators
1946	Congresswoman	1	8	—
1947	Senator	1	8	1
1949	Congresswoman	1	100	—
1953	Congresswoman	1	102	—
1955	Senator	1	8	1
1957	Congresswoman	1	102	—
1961	Senator	1	8	2
	Congresswoman	2	104	—
1963	Senator	1	8	2
1965	Senator	1	8	3
	Congresswoman	6	104	—
1967	Senator	2	8	4
1969	Senator	0	8	3
	Congresswoman	3	109	—
1971	Senator	1	8	3

¹CONST. Art. VI

²Ibid.

Because of the overlap of terms, there were more than two women Senators who sat together in 1965, 1967, 1969 and 1971.

When Martial Law was declared in September 1972, Congress ceased to function and no elections were held until 1978 when the Interim Batasang Pambansa was created.

On June 12, 1978, the country inaugurated the Interim Batasang Pambansa, the national legislature created under the 1973 Constitution.

The Batasan was composed of not more than 200 members including the President/Prime Minister, representatives elected from the different regions, those who are not less than 18 years of age elected by their respective sectors, and those chosen by the President/Prime Minister from among the members of the Cabinet to serve a six-year term.

The term of the Interim Batasang Pambansa whose members were elected last April 7, 1978 ended on June 30, 1984. On May 14, 1984, another election for the first regular Batasang Pambansa was held. However, the basis of representation in the Batasan underwent a major change. Formerly regionwide, representation in the legislative body is now on the basis of provinces (with their component cities), urbanized cities and districts in Metropolitan Manila. This was effected through a constitutional amendment ratified in the plebiscite of January 27, 1984.³

With this resolution, the Batasan has increased its elective members to 181 in 1984. Of the 165 elective seats in 1978, ten were won by women — eight as regional and two as sectoral representatives. Again in 1984, women garnered ten of 181 elective seats. Representation of women in the national legislative body at two points in time is given in the following table.

The 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections registered only 5.4% representation of women. No perceptible increase occurred in women's representation from 1978 to 1984. However, of some interest and significance is the fact that these successful women candidates garnered the highest or second highest number of votes in the province or city they represent. For instance, in a line-up of six winning candidates in Manila, a woman candidate topped the list of successful candidates; in Ilocos Norte (Region 1), a lone woman candidate garnered the first of two slots; in Pampanga, first place of four slots; in Tarlac, first of two slots. In Quezon City, a woman candidate placed second among four elected; in Cavite, second place of three

³Fookien Times Philippine Yearbook, 1983-1984.

seats. Also, women won the only seat allotted in one city and in two provinces.

Members of the Batasang Pambansa by Sex, 1978 and 1984

Elections	Total Members				Elective			Appointive		
	T	M	F	%F	T	M	F	T	M	F
1978										
Regional Representatives	151	143	8	5.3	151	143	8	—	—	—
Sectoral Representatives	14	12	2	14.3	14	12	2	—	—	—
Cabinet members appointed by the President as Batasan Members	13	12	1	7.7	—	—	(1)	13	12	1
TOTAL	178	167	11	6.2	165	155	10	13	12	1
1985										
Provincial/City Representatives	181	171	10	5.5	181	171	10	—	—	—
Cabinet members appointed by the President as Batasan Members	3	3	0	0	—	—	—	3	3	0
TOTAL	184	174	10	5.4	181	171	10	3	3	0

2) Provincial/City/Municipal Levels

Before Martial Law was declared in the country, the last local election was in 1971. Another local election followed in 1980. In these two elections, women were elected in all seats although, they only occupy a small percentage.

In the provincial level, the number of women elected did not increase significantly; in fact, the percentage of women governors and provincial board members decreased by about one percent.

In the municipal/city level, minimal increases were noted as follows:

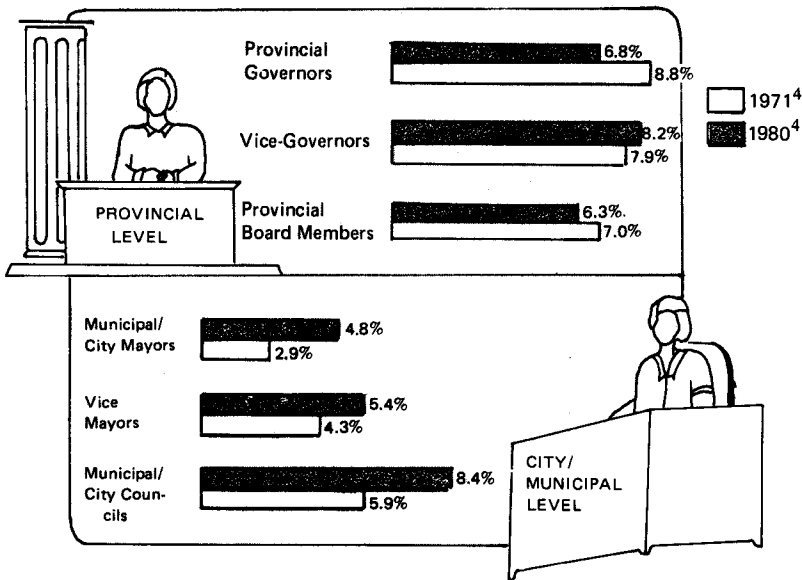


Fig. 1 Percentage Distribution of Governors, Mayors, Provincial Board and Board Members, 1971 and 1980.

3) Barangay level

The "barangay" is the smallest political unit in the country. A woman has been president of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Barangay, the National Federation of the country's different barangay councils, for more than eight years.

The following table shows that some 32,578 women hold responsible positions in the barangay. The number of women barangay captains almost doubled between the electoral periods of 1971 and 1982 (from 3.9% to 6.3%)*. The representation of women officials is as follows:

Positions	Total	1982 ⁵		% F
		M	F	
Barangay Captain	39,443	36,943	2,500	6.3
Barangay Council	240,371	212,321	28,050	11.7
Barangay Secretary	4,043	4,036	907	18.3
Barangay Treasurer	5,055	3,034	1,121	22.2
TOTAL	288,912	256,334	32,578	11.3%

⁴Commission on Election.

*No comparable sex disaggregated data are available for the other barangay officials elected in 1971 (COMELEC).

⁵Ibid.

On the whole the percentage of women elected to public office is small, almost token. Even if women are given the opportunity to run for public office women have yet to make their participation felt. Although on the whole the number of women candidates increased from 1978 to 1984, the percentage of women candidates for the national assembly decreased, and so did the percentage of women elected.

YEAR	C A N D I D A T E S		% of F	%of Female elected out of the total number of women candidates
	TOTAL	No. of women		
1978	536	30	5.6	33.3
1984	993	52	5.2	19.2

b. As Appointive Officials

Appointment to top-level positions in the government provides women opportunities for participation in policy decision making and planning.

The President of the Philippines appoints officials to the following positions:

1) Cabinet

The Cabinet consists of the heads of ministries as provided by Article IX Sec. 1 of the Constitution. In 1984, two of 18 line ministers appointed by the President are women — the Minister of Human Settlements and that of the Social Services and Development.

2) Constitutional Commissions

The three Constitutional Commissions are the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Commission on Audit (COA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Each is headed by a Chairman and two to four Commissioners. All the incumbent heads are men and only one (from CSC) among eight Commissioners is a woman. At one time, CSC was chaired by a woman, but when she died (in 1984), the vacancy was filled by a man.

3) Legislative

As mentioned previously, the legislative power is vested in the Batasang Pambansa.

There was only one woman cabinet member (representing the Social Services Sector) appointed as member of the Batasang Pambansa (1978-1984). (Please see table on p. 3).

During the second term of the Batasang Pambansa, all three Cabinet members appointed as legislative members are males.

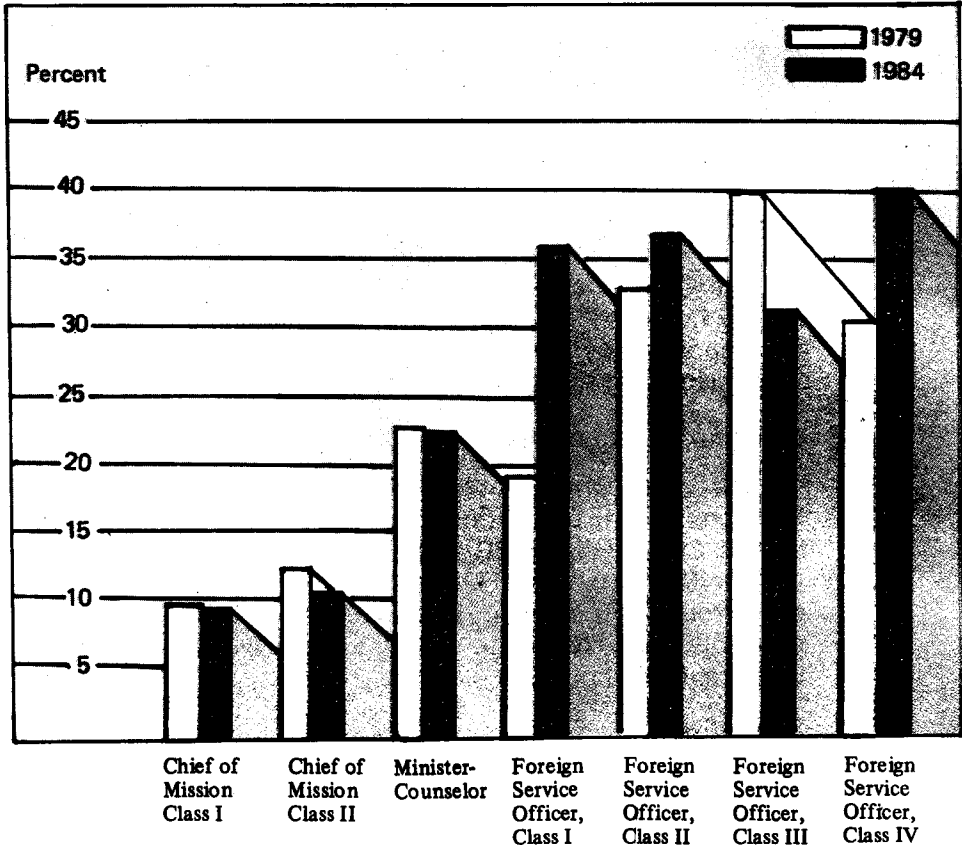
4) Diplomatic service

In 1984, women constitute more than a quarter (27.5%) of all foreign service and home employees. Of the 83 women members, eight have ambassadorial ranks, nine are minister-counselors and the rest are distributed in the different levels of foreign service assigned here and abroad.

A comparison of data for 1979 and 1984 show a slight increase in the percentage of women in the diplomatic service with the increments mostly coming from the ranks of Foreign Service Officers I, II and IV.

Details of women's participation at all ranks from Chiefs of Mission Class I to FSO IV, both here and abroad are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

Fig. 2. Women Members of the Diplomatic Service
Both in the Foreign Service & Home Office Assignments,
1979⁴ and 1984⁷



⁶Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Personnel Department.

⁷Bibliographic Register of Ambassadors of the Philippines, Career Chiefs of Mission, Counselors, Foreign Service Officers, Office of the Executive Director of UN and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5) Judiciary

All members of the Judiciary are presidential appointees. The first woman jurist in the Supreme Court served from 1973 up to 1978. Upon her retirement, another woman was appointed to succeed her.

Prior to the Judicial reorganization of January 1983, women occupied key positions in Courts below the Supreme Court as given below:

Appointive Officials in the Judiciary, by Sex, 1981⁸

Level	Male	Female	% F	Total
Supreme Court	14	1	6.7	15
Court of Appeals	26	2	7.1	28
Court of First Instance	271	18	6.2	289
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	3	6	66.7	9
Court of Agrarian Relations	46	7	13.2	53
City Courts	99	5	4.8	104
Municipal Courts/Municipal Circuit Courts	689	37	5.1	726
TOTAL	1,148	76	6.2	1,224

Although women lawyers occupied apparently more than their share of positions in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, they had low percentage representation in the rest of the branches of judiciary.⁹

Today, women jurists are represented at all levels in the newly created courts (pls. see following table) with only a small improvement in women's representation from 6.2% in 1981 to 7.5% in 1984.

⁸*Women in the Legal Profession in the Philippines: An Assessment*, A paper presented by Justice Ameurfina A. Melencio-Herrera, Supreme Court Associate Justice during the 28th Biennial Convention of the Iota Tau, Nov. 4-8, 1981.

⁹*NCRFW, Roles of and Attitudes Toward Women Lawyers, Research Monograph 2*, 1982, p. 6.

Appointive Officials in the Judiciary by Sex as of July 16, 1984¹⁰

Level	Male	Female	Total	%F
Members of Judiciary	1455	118	1573	7.50
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court	13	1	14	7.14
Intermediate Appellate Courts	31	6	37	8.96
Regional Trial Courts	553	47	600	7.83
Metropolitan Trial Courts	59	14	73	19.18
Municipal Trial Courts/ Municipal Circuit Courts	799	50	849	5.89

In the Ministry of Justice there are only five women out of the 56 state prosecutors as of August 1984¹¹ while in the Office of the Tanodbayan which receives and investigates complaints relative to public office, there are seven (7) women out of 27 prosecutors.

Although women are still outnumbered by the men, they are represented at all levels in the Judiciary.

6) Career Executive Service

The Career Executive Service (CES) refers to the third or highest level of position in the Civil Service. These are the positions of Deputy Minister, Assistant Secretary, Bureau Director, Assistant Bureau Director, Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director and all other positions of equivalent rank in the national government identified and classified by the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) as belonging to the CES.¹²

Members of the third level are considered the top career administrators of the Philippine government.¹³ They get promoted to higher ranks on the basis of personal qualifications, managerial competence and performance.

By way of reference, the two other levels of positions in the civil service are:

- a. The first level which includes clerical, trades, crafts and custodial positions; and
- b. The second level which includes professional, technical and scientific positions up to Division Chief Level.

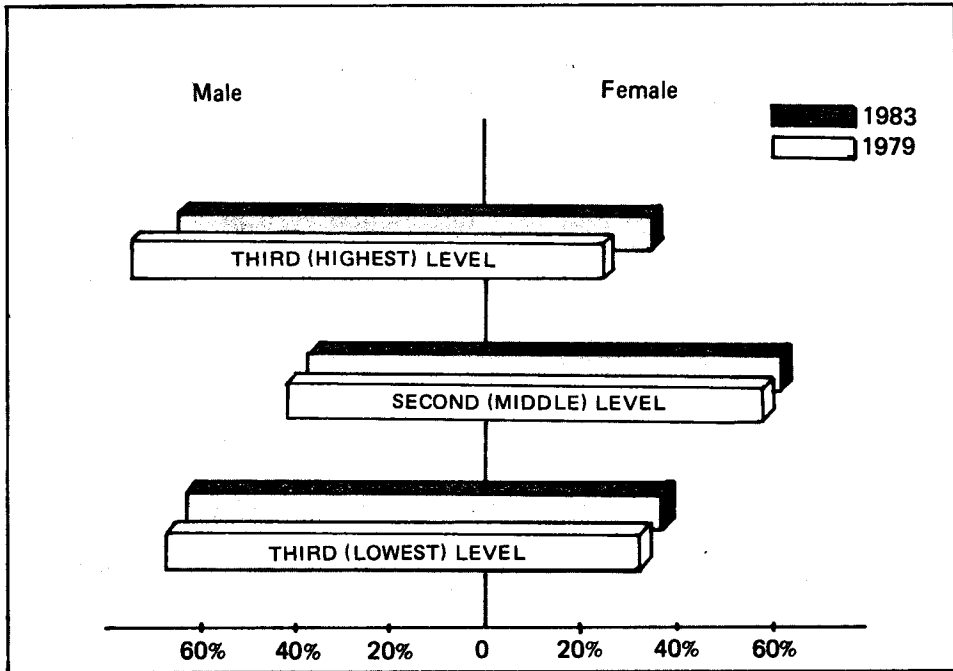
¹⁰Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court, Manila

¹¹Office of the State Prosecutors, Ministry of Justice.

¹²CES Brochure.

¹³Proserpina Domingo Tapales, *Women in Philippine Bureaucracy: Toward An Alternative Approach to the Study of Political Participation*, A Dissertation Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree, Doctor of Philosophy, Delkalb, Illinois, p. 82.

Fig. 3 Civil Servants by Level, by Sex: 1979 & 1983



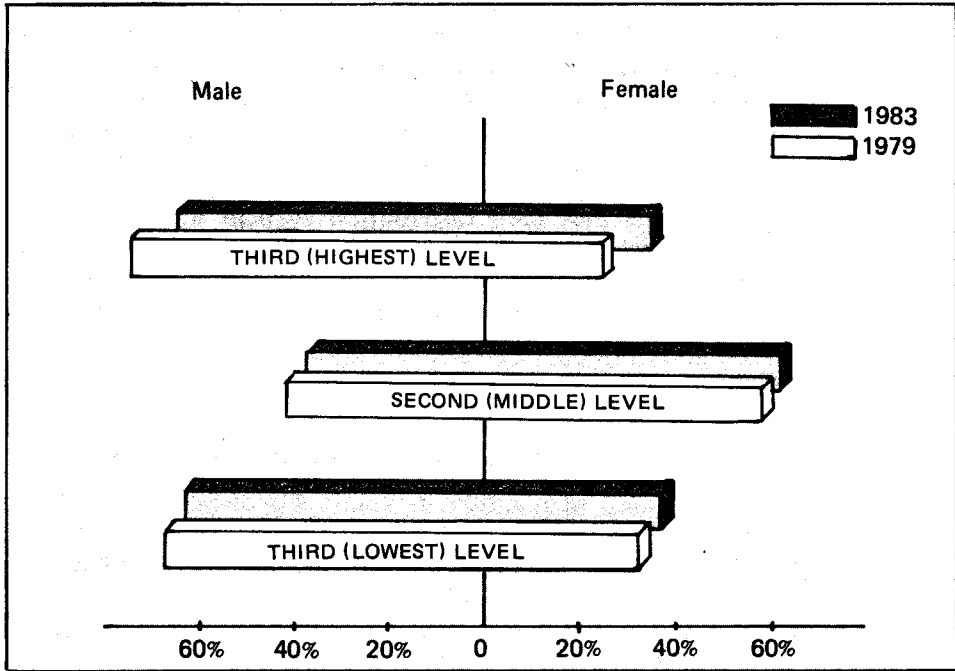
A study of the higher civil service in the Philippines, conducted in 1974 by Edward Masa, revealed that more than 85 percent of the higher civil servants were males.¹⁴ Recent figures from the civil service show a brighter picture. In 1979 women comprised one fourth of the third level of the civil service. In 1980, women comprised a little more than half (52.3%) of the women government employees in the career service. At the highest level, 26.1 percent were women. This has considerably increased to 36% in 1983. But when compared to the total number of women in the career service in 1983, they only comprised less than one percent. (Please also see Tables 5, 6 and 7.)

Generally, women are fairly well represented in all the Ministries and offices of the government (Table 8). However, the percentage of women in the Career Executive Service positions suffers in comparison with men. Of the total 1,108 CES positions females comprised only 14.4 percent or 160 against a large proportion of the males which is 74.2 percent (822.) Of the 982 incumbents, women formed only less than one fifth (16.3%). Moreover, among the female incumbents of this position, only 42 have the status of a CESO.¹⁵

¹⁴Ibid. p. 11

¹⁵A Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) who has completed the Career Executive Service Development Program (CESDP).

Fig. 3 Civil Servants by Level, by Sex: 1979 & 1983



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¹⁴ibid. p. 11

¹⁵A Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) who has completed the Career Executive Service Development Program (CESDP).

A closer look at Table 8 also shows that in almost every Ministry, the men are the majority; in three Ministries – Energy, National Defense and Cultural Minorities there are no women holding Career Executive Service positions. On the other hand, there is one female-dominated office which is the Ministry of Social Services and Development. This may be explained by the fact that in social work professions, the women predominate.

It seems that their distribution even in the higher level of the different ministries indicates some tendencies toward sex stereotyping. Traditionally masculine work is managed by men and traditionally feminine work by the women as seen in the grouping of some ministries in 1982.

“Traditionally Masculine” Ministries

Ministry	%of Women to total (1982)	%of Women CESOs (1984) Based from Table 8
Agriculture and Food	49	16
Natural Resources	46	6
Public Works and Highways	23	4
Transportation & Communication	52	4
Energy	42	0
National Defense	58	0

“Traditionally Feminine” Ministries

Education and Culture	61	29
Health	59	26
Labor and Employment	61	33
Social Service and Development	73	84

2. Private

Available data on women assuming top positions in the private sector are provided in the following paragraphs.

- a. The latest study undertaken in 1981 by the Bureau of Women and Minors on the Profile of Women Workers in the Managerial and Supervisory Levels include data on women workers in top managerial level. The data utilized for the study were culled from the information contained in BWM-F-1 forms submitted to the Bureau of Women and Minors in 1979. (The study will be discussed further in the succeeding section.)

Out of the total 1,044 women workers holding decision-making positions, only 155 or 14.8 percent are in top level management. They are composed mostly of presidents, general managers, owners/managers, assistant general managers and directors. Of this number, majority (43.23%) are owners of establishments or self-employed workers. The study also reveals that some women reach the highest level because they own the business. Incidentally, this particular finding has been further supported by the 1982 data from NCSO on women entrepreneurs. Of the 5,000 entrepreneurs reported in the third quarter of 1982, majority (80%) were women. (Please see table on page 12.)

- b. Generally women play a minor role in trade unions which has been a male-dominated institution. However, recent trends show that women are making headway in the organized sector where their leadership capabilities have been recognized which enable them to officially influence decision-making regarding matters within their organization.

According to the Study on Women in Labor Unions¹⁶, there were 84 unions with women presidents. Of these, 30 had CBA's (Collective Bargaining Agreement) and 54 had none. Of the 30 with CBA's, 27 were from the manufacturing industries, two from the services and one from a commercial establishment. Of the 54 without CBA's, 27 were from the manufacturing sector, 13 from services and 14 from commercial establishments.

Women officers totalled less than five percent (4.1%) of all women union members (48,988). Only five and six percent were Presidents and Vice-Presidents, respectively. Treasurers which ranked first by classification of position accounted for 18.7 percent; Secretaries, 18.4 percent; and Board Members, 14.6 percent. Majority of the rest of the positions comprised only less than one percent (i.e., auditors, managers).

B. Women in Middle Management¹⁷

In almost every Filipino family, the woman holds the purse strings. Even if the man is considered the head of the family, she manages the house and family finances. Women's managerial capabilities are no longer confined with-

¹⁶Data were taken from local union reports on file at the Bureau of Labor Relations, 1979-1982 and covered only 968 local union reports processed out of the 1,890 total local unions for 1979-1981.

¹⁷Definition of Terms:

a. Management is the collective body of those who manage or direct any enterprise or interest; the manner of creating, directing, carrying on or causing for a purpose.

b. Middle Management here refers to positions held by the Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers (an NCSO occupational grouping) and as defined in the BWM Study, it includes positions like Division and Assistant Division Chiefs, Heads of Significant Office Units, Personnel Managers, Branch Managers, Assistant Personnel Managers, Administrators, and others in similar range of responsibility.

in the household as some of them have ventured into the world of work and management of enterprises. Available data show that a good number of these women have been successful in entering managerial posts although their representation is still very small.

Managerial Workers By Sex, Public and Private

Third Quarter of 1982¹⁸

Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	Wage and Salary Workers (In Thousands)			
	Total	Male	Female	% of F
Government	61	43	18	29.5
Private	61	47	14	22.9
Family Owned Enterprises	5	1	4	80.0
TOTAL	127	91	36	28.3

1. Public

Of the 61,000 administrative, executive and managerial workers in the government service, only 18,000 or about one-third (29.5%) were women.

2. Private

a. Profile of Women Workers in the Managerial and Supervisory Levels: 1981

The latest study undertaken in 1981 by the Bureau of Women workers reveals basic information on women workers holding managerial and supervisory positions in private establishments.¹⁹

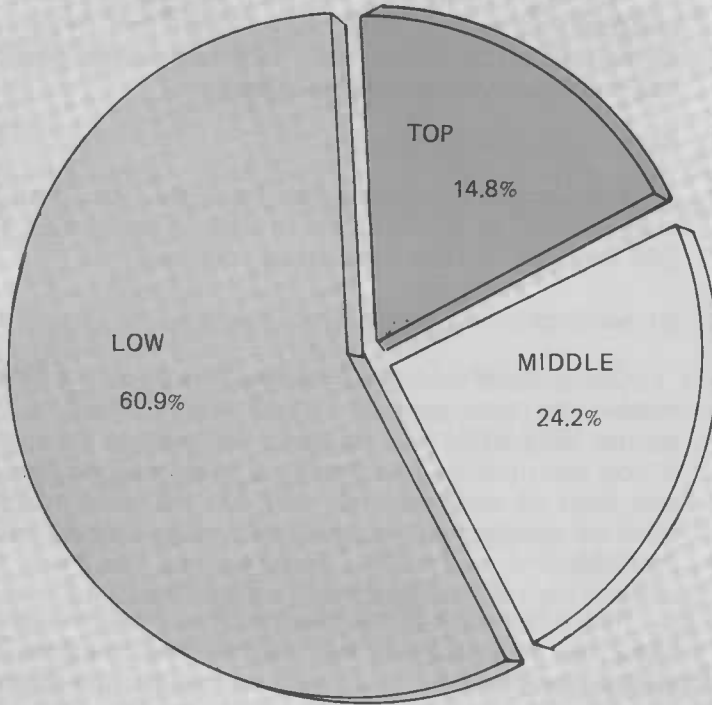
Coverage of this study includes 585 establishments in Metro Manila in the following industries: 179 manufacturing, 361 commerce and banking, wholesale and retail and 45 in services. Of the total workers (47,896) surveyed, 17,631 or 36.81 percent are women. Of this number, 1,044 or 5.92 percent are holding managerial and supervisory positions.

¹⁸ Figures were obtained from NCSO: Number of Employed Persons By Major Occupation Group, By Class of Workers, By Sex, Urban and Rural, Third Quarter of 1982.

¹⁹ The Research was based only on the 1979 BWM-F-1 submitted to the Bureau.

1) By position

Fig. 4 Distribution of Women in the Three Levels of Management in Private Establishment: 1981



TOP: composed of Presidents, General Managers, Owners, Assistant General Managers and Directors.

MIDDLE: composed of Assistant Managers, Branch Managers, Division and Department Heads, Assistant Administrators and Personnel Officers.

LOW: composed of Section Heads and Supervisors.

The study shows that the number of women in managerial and supervisory level decreases with the rise in position. Of the total number of women workers surveyed, 253 or 24.2% are in middle management. This constitutes almost one-fourth of women in all levels of management.

In the middle managerial level, the largest number of workers are Assistant Managers constituting 28.85% followed closely by women holding positions in the categories of branch managers, division and department heads equivalent to 28.46%. Positions in the middle management were composed mainly of Assistant Administrators, Personnel Officers and Personnel Assistants.

Women in managerial positions are found mostly in Commercial undertakings such as banking, wholesale and retail stores and some in manufacturing where they hold responsible positions but below the decision or policy-making category.

2) By civil status and age group

Women holding managerial and supervisory positions are mostly married (507 or 47.99%) and in their mid-twenties. They comprised 265 or 25.38% of the total women covered.

3) By earnings

On a monthly basis, women in top and middle management receive the same average income from P1,000 to P1,999.9 based on the 1979 BWM-F-1. However, the average income of the workers in top and middle management is quite low considering the position and level of responsibility held. On the other hand, those in low level of management receive an average income between P900 to P999.99.

The differences in the salaries of women managers may be attributed to differences in the size of establishments, the number of workers employed, the amount of capital, the liberality and capacity to pay of the employers.

b. Women in the Administrative, Executive and Managerial Work: Third Quarter of 1982.

Statistics from NCSO reveal that 18,000 or half of the women administrators, executives and managers in 1982 are found in the private sector including those in family owned enterprises. (Please see Table on page 12.) Among those who manage their family businesses, majority are women (80%). In private offices and companies, only less than a quarter (22.9 percent) are women administrators, executives and managers.

3. Public and Private, 1978 and 1983

All occupational groups except the production process group registered an increase in the number of women workers from 1978 to 1983.

Among managers, there was a meteoric rise (42.9 percent) from 17.5 percent in 1978 to 25 percent in 1983.

In spite of the encouraging rise in the proportion of women managers and executives from 1978 to 1983, women have yet to prove their prowess in the executive and managerial field since they constituted only a quarter (25%) of the total number of executives and managers in 1983.

C. Women as Individual, Family and Community Decision-Makers

Decision-Making in the home and outside the home is taken up here where women are seen actively involved in national development.

1. As Electors

Filipino women won the right of suffrage only after years of hard work and struggle. In 1937, they exercised the right to vote and to be voted for public office.

a. Brief History of the Women Suffrage Movement:

The concept of popular education introduced by the American colonial government in 1901 liberalized education for both men and women and resulted in the awakening of Filipino women to their right of equality with men, including suffrage.

The Asosacion de Damas Feministas, a group of civic-minded women who organized themselves in 1905, was followed by other women groups with women leaders clamoring for the right to vote.

During the first session of the Philippine Assembly in 1907, a bill on women's suffrage was filed but it was not even discussed. From then on, in every session of the Philippine Assembly, a bill was filed advocating women's suffrage. A hearing on women's suffrage bill was finally set in September, 1931. This was participated in by prominent women leaders who expressed their sentiments over the issue.

On December 7, 1933, Act No. 4112 was signed into law to take effect on January 8, 1935, granting women the right of suffrage and making them eligible for election to public office. However, with the calling of the Constitutional Convention in 1934, the women had to work all over again for women suffrage. The Convention, composed entirely of male lawmakers, did not make it easy for the women. The constitution of 1935 provided that a plebiscite be held within two years to determine if the women really wanted to vote and required that 300,000 votes should be obtained in favor of woman suffrage.

On September 30, 1936, Commonwealth Act 34, "An act to provide for holding of a Plebiscite on April 30, 1937" on the question of women suffrage was approved. The final official report had 447,725 women voters voting affirmatively and 44,307 in the negative. This was the first time women voted in favor of women's cause.

The National Assembly in its special session in September, 1937 ratified the plebiscite returns. The election law passed by the Philippine Commonwealth on September 15, 1937 extended the right to vote to all citizens, male or female, 21 years of age, who can read and write, unless they are disqualified by law.²⁰

The elections that same year marked the beginning of Filipino women's election to public office. The women elected included: 1 council woman in Manila; 3 lady members of Provincial Boards; 2 mayors; 13 vice mayors and 306 town councilors. This was 47 years ago.

b. Equality of Political Rights

Today, equality of political rights is explicitly guaranteed by the 1973 Constitution of the Philippines.

Article VI, Section I of the Constitution states that:

"Suffrage shall be exercised by citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are eighteen years of age or over, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months preceding the election. No literacy, property or other substantive requirements shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage. The National Assembly shall provide a system for the purpose of securing the secrecy and sanctity of the vote."

c. Participation in National/Local Elections

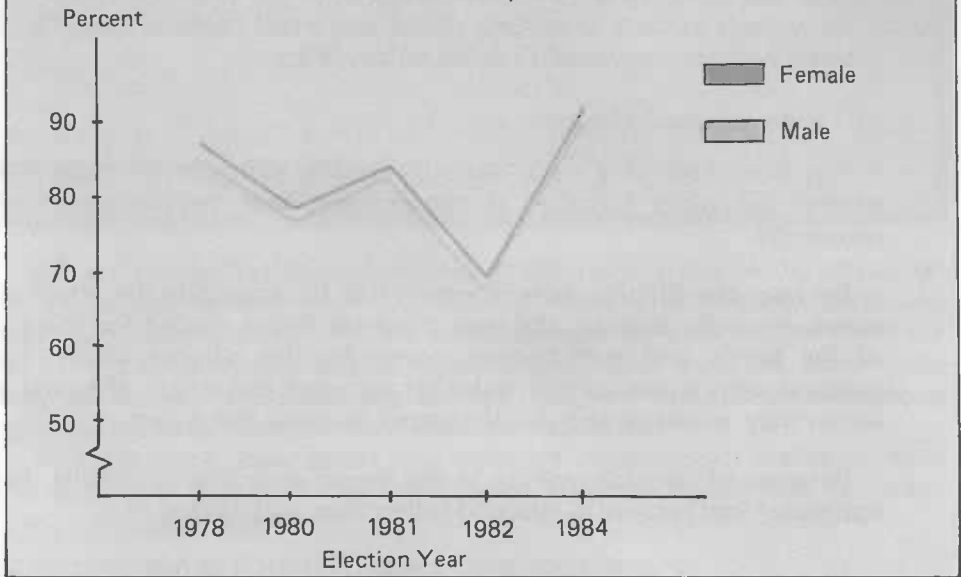
Filipino women have been active at the polls. They have exercised their right of suffrage fourteen (14) times since 1972, in five elections (three national and two local elections during the decade) and several plebiscites and referenda (Table 10).

The official results of eleven elections held before the decade on women since 1953 (excluding referenda and plebiscites) released by the Commission on Elections revealed that registered female voters have a consistently higher turn-out rate (75% to 82%) than their male counterparts (68% to 82%) except in three electoral years: 1957, 1961 and 1970 when the males had a .81, .04 and .17 percent edges respectively (Table 11).

Again, elections held during the decade showed a consistently higher-turn-out rate among the women (67% to 90%) than the men (66% to 89%). (Please see following figure).

COMELEC confirmed a heavy voter turnout in the May 14, 1984 Batasang Pambansa election despite the boycott movement where 25,000 boycott advocates officially registered according to the People's Boycott Center. A great majority of the people especially the women participated in the rally to urge the citizens to vote.

Fig. 5 Percentage of Qualified Electors Who Voted by Sex: 1978-1984



Similarly, the findings of "Values of Filipino Women: Their Implications for Education, National Policy and Social Action," a research jointly undertaken by NCRFW and UP College of Education, Diliman in 1981-83, supports the claim that Filipino women have been active in exercising their right to vote.

To the question, "What activities during election do you participate in?" the most frequently ticked off answers are listed in the following:

Activities	% Response
	N = 500
Voting	62.2
Attending Meeting/Rallies	32.4
None	20.4
Campaigning	15.0
Serving Food/drinks etc.	8.8
Others	6.8
Putting up posters	6.6

There is a large proportion of women who reported voting as their way of getting involved in political affairs. Outside voting, only a small proportion of the women are involved in activities directly associated with government elections.²¹

²¹NCRFW and UP College of Education, Diliman, Values of Filipino Women: Their Implications for Education, National Policy and Social Action, 1983, pp. 88-89.

While the percentage of qualified women voters who turned out to vote was comparatively higher than that of the male voters, the number of women elected to public office was small especially at the higher levels because few women ran for public office.

2. As Family Decision-Makers

The household is a basic decision-making structure. In most Filipino homes, the wives function as housekeepers and "co-managers" of the household.

By law, the Filipino wife is responsible for managing the affairs of the home. In such capacity, she may purchase things needed for the support of the family and even borrow money for this purpose. While it is the husband who is the administrator of conjugal properties, the wife as co-owner may, under certain circumstances, exercise this power.

Patterns of decision-making in the home according to Castillo, is more egalitarian and joint-with-husband rather than patriarchal.²²

In a study of decision-making patterns of rural families conducted by Guerrero in 1966, the following were found mainly to be the wife's domain: matters involving the household, budgeting family expenditures; while joint husband-wife decisions involve the children (i.e., discipline (Martinez-Esquillo 1976), education, assignment of chores, etc.), buying land, borrowing money, renting land and deciding what to plant, family planning, family affairs and family recreation.

"The wife participates in the management not only of matters concerning household and family but also of farming and livelihood. The wife as keeper of finances is a well accepted norm. . ."

3. As Civic and Community Workers

Women's organizations engage in a wide range of activities from civic and religious to professional. They reach the most depressed urban slums and the remotest rural areas. They facilitate the acquisition of employment skills; provide assistance to small businesses; and contribute to the promotion of better health and hygiene through health, nutrition and sanitation campaigns, provision of free medical check-up and medicines, and training of para-medical personnel in the field of health, nutrition and family planning. In the villages, a majority of barangay (health) workers are women, thus: ²³

²²Gelia T. Castillo, "The Filipino Woman: The Image and the Empirical Reality," Los Baños, Laguna, 1976.

²³NCRFW, Women in Health and Welfare, A Country Report Presented at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the Decade in Women in Nairobi, Kenya, July 1984.

	Total	% Female
Barangay Health Workers	143,147	80
Botica Sa Barangay Aides	10,387	84
Barangay Nutrition Scholars	113,037	90
Barangay Service Point Officers	51,169	86

Women's organizations are likewise active participants in the education of the people through the conduct of seminars in citizenship, leadership and civic consciousness and the dissemination of information materials on various subject areas such as consumerism, herbal medicine, alcoholism, etc., all through materials and human resources the women themselves generate by fund raising or from their own pockets.²⁴

In 1980, there were about 200 women's organizations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, most of which have municipal and provincial chapters.

a. Participation in Formal Women's Organizations

1) Civic Assembly of Women in the Philippines (CAWP)

The need for a duly-organized women's group "to insure the coordination and consolidation of women's efforts for the continuity of their action programs for more effective results" was strongly felt and increasingly recognized. In 1947 the women's groups voted to band themselves into what they called "Women's Civic Assembly of the Philippines" (WCAP) later renamed the Civic Assembly of Women in the Philippines in 1950.

CAWP today is the umbrella organization of about 74 affiliate organizations. It corresponds to the National Women's Council of other countries. These organizations are either associations of professional women, church-affiliated, or international organizations, most of which are based in the urban areas. About fifteen of these clubs are affiliates of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO's). Members have "access to and perform active roles in decision-making and policy formulation in private sectors." (Benitez, Fookien Times, 1984-1985).

1.1 Objectives: (Article II)

CAWP is "the central national body to coordinate and consolidate the efforts and involvement of the Filipino women to respond to the needs of development towards the promotion of the well-being of its constituents, its communities and of the nation.

²⁴Dr. Leticia Perez de Guzman, Women's Familial Organizations: A Close Look: Philippines, Paper Presented at AWP-ACWD Meeting, Indonesia, Feb. 21-25, 1984, pp. 13-14.

It works and cooperates with government or non-governmental agencies, local, national and foreign organizations toward strengthening women's movement and potentials for improvement of quality of life.

1.2 *Membership (Article III)*

CAWP includes large organizations like the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, National Federation of Women's Club, Catholic Women's Club and the Rural Improvement Clubs among others. Member organizations work through their individual members. However, data on the actual number of members per affiliate organization are not immediately available.

Based on partial data of membership (Table 13) a total of 1,509,584 women members belonged to 22 women's organizations in 1975. This figure rose to 2,603,630 members in 1980. In a span of five years, a 72 percent increase rate in the membership was noted.

1.3 *Programs and Projects*²⁵

The following are CAWP's main areas of concern/programs and projects as part of its Program of Action for 1981-83:

CAWP's Areas of Concern and Programs and Projects

I. Education

1. Family Life Education Program

- a. organize Family Councils for closer and stronger family ties.
- b. encourage women to participate in civic affairs

2. Career Guidance Program

3. Cultural Preservation and Revival

4. Training Programs (formal and non-formal)

5. Linkage Program (tie-up with offices for possible placement after training)

II. Health and Environment

1. Health Education Program

- a. campaign for breastfeeding and environmental sanitation

2. Environmental Sanitation

- a. toilet construction program
- b. installation of potable water supply and artesian wells

3. Dental and Orthopedic Services

4. Information education on drug abuse and drug-related problems

²⁵CAWP's 37th Anniversary Brochure: *Theme: "4 K's: Kilusan ng Kababaihan sa Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran"* and in *Observance of Philippine Independence's 85th Anniversary, PICC, June 1983.*

5. Study on Effects of Nuclear Plant

III. Economic and Social Development Including Employment and Consumerism

1. Income-generating programs such as small-scale industries
2. Family Life Development
3. Information and Research Program
 - a. undertake feasibility studies for guiding policies and action programs aimed at widening the range of employment opportunities for women.
4. Campaign Against Exploitation of Women
5. Organization of Consumer Groups

IV. International Affairs

1. Observance of international events.
2. Participation in international events and conferences.

V. Other Concerns

1. Professionalization of CAWP affiliates.
2. Networking.

2) **Balikatan Sa Kaunlaran (BSK) Inc.**

Balikatan sa Kaunlaran which literally means "shoulder to shoulder in development" is a program initiated by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women in 1977 which gained official recognition through Presidential Proclamation 1609 issued on January 6, 1977. The NCRFW saw the need for a definite structure to facilitate implementation of programs and projects of the Commission and to sustain the interest and enthusiasm generated and developed among women. BSK seeks the involvement of all sectors toward fuller integration of women in the total development effort.

For five years, BSK operated with a very loose structure as its foundation was premised on the spirit of volunteerism. Later on, realizing the need for a distinct legal personality for the BSK and on the recommendation of the Third National Women's Congress, the Balikatan sa Kaunlaran was incorporated.²⁶

2.1 General Objective (Article II)

The general objective of BSK Inc. is "to provide a nationwide, formal institutional medium among women, men and youth that will cooperate and collaborate with private and public sectors of the country for the initiation, implementation, sponsorship, assistance and financing of action programs, studies, researches and facilities for activities concerned with the development of Filipino women, men and youth and their fuller integration in the total development efforts of our nation."

²⁶Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 11, 1983.

2.2 *Organizational Structure (Article III)*

BSK is functional along three levels namely: Provincial/City, Regional and National. The President of each provincial/city council is the representative to the regional level. From among representatives to the regional level is elected a regional trustee who becomes the representative to the National BSK Inc. There are eighteen (18) trustees: one from each of the thirteen (13) regions and five from NCRFW.

The Board of Trustees elects from among themselves an Executive Committee composed of a President, 3 Vice-Presidents (representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), PRO, Secretary and a Treasurer.

2.3 *Extent of Organization*²⁷

Council level (province/city): BSK is 98% organized in all provinces and cities. This means that of the 74 provinces and 60 cities targeted, 132 provincial and city councils have been organized.

Chapter level (municipality): Based on information on municipalities organized supplied by 31 councils, the average organization rate of BSK across all regions in 1982 was 78.73%.

Unit level (barangay): The average rate was estimated at 54.54% as reported by 55 cities and provinces.

2.4 *Programs and Projects*²⁸

The NCRFW assists BSK members in determining the types of projects to be undertaken using as basis the needs of their respective communities and resources that are available in the area. Recent reports submitted indicate that projects implemented vary in every region. The types of activities undertaken responded to the needs and problems of the people mostly in the areas of livelihood, education, health, socio-civic activities and politics. The following are the highlights of BSK accomplishments:

Employment:

Active participation of women in economic production both in the rural and urban areas was reported by 89 councils. More than 100 types of income-generating projects include food production, cottage industry, training and employment assistance (i.e. trainings on entrepreneurial skills, cosmetology, garment production) and small business operation like putting up of fruit stands and stores, etc.

Health:

BSK Inc. conducted a massive campaign to promote health consciousness among the people. Health programs implemented are categorized into four: food and nutrition; cleanliness and sanitation; health protection and delivery services; health seminars and information dissemination.

²⁷NCRFW, *Annual Report* 1983 p. 21

²⁸*ibid*, pp. 18-21.

Education:

Women engaged themselves in five major projects namely: literacy (non-formal classes); skills development and training; meetings/lectures/seminars that were of relevance and general interest to women such as personality development, leadership etc.; scholarships; and distribution/solicitation of educational facilities.

Socio-Civic and Political Involvement of Women

Women took a lead role in socio-civic and political activities such as conduct of public meetings, massive information drive on peace promotion, campaign against drug addiction and vices and prostitution among other projects.

Linkages and networking with agencies and civic organizations facilitated implementation of their activities.

As of December 1984, BSK was reported to have close to three million card-bearing members. Reports from 57 councils indicate 3,595,557 beneficiaries of 22 projects. Estimates of equivalent of the members' services, goods, cash raised, money spent for the different projects amounted to P55,854,956.

3) Rural Improvement Clubs of the Philippines (RICs)²⁹

RICs are village-based organizations whose membership is mostly agricultural and rural. They are affiliated with CAWP (National) and the Associated Country Women of the World.

RICs are voluntary, socio-economic associations which were first organized in 1934. They reach more farm families through extension efforts in the rural communities.

3.1 Objectives

Organized on a nationwide scale to serve as volunteer core group, RICs serve as channels for harnessing leadership potentials of rural women through various development-oriented community activities. These involve a more active participation of rural women in the uplift of the family and community to influence the direction of change in their situation through cooperative efforts.

3.2 Extent of Organization

RICs can be found throughout the Philippines. Each province has a Provincial RIC Council composed of different officers elected from the presidents of the various Municipal RIC Councils. Each of the twelve regions in the country elects two members to the National RIC Council. From these members, the national officers of the RIC of the Philippines are elected.

RICs get technical assistance from extension home economists of the Ministry of Agriculture.

²⁹Bureau of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture.

3.3 Membership

As of the third quarter of 1984, there were reportedly 10,110 RICs organized nationwide with a membership of 203,200.

3.4 Programs and Projects

- Food and Nutrition Program – improvement of knowledge, attitude and practices in family nutrition; prevention of malnutrition; increase in the use of indigenous foods.

- Income Generating Program – development of microbusiness management to augment farm families' income through the use of available raw materials and other resources.

- Resource Utilization Program – conservation and recycling activities to help increase awareness on effective management of income and improvement of housekeeping, health and sanitation in the home.

b. Other Community Activities of Women

Activities Women are doing and prefer to do³⁰

Activities	Actually Doing		Prefer to do	
	F	%	F	%
1. Engage in economic venture	223	45.6	282	56.4
2. Participate actively in Church activities	310	62.0	186	37.2
3. Participate actively in civic-educational activities	276	55.2	189	37.8
4. Lead other community members	145	29.0	191	38.2
5. Stay home and take care of the family	436	87.2	146	29.2
6. Engage in other activities	—	—	1	0.2
TOTAL	500		500	

Findings of the recently completed research on "Values of Filipino Women: Their Implications for Education, National Policy and Social Action"³⁰ reveal that majority of the women (87.2%) only stay home and take care of the family. However, a great proportion are currently involved in church and civic-educational activities, 62.0% and 55% respectively but they prefer to devote more time to economic ventures (56.4%) and leadership roles (38.2%).

4. As Influential/Lobby/Pressure Groups

Earlier, women were more involved in socio-civic, religious, cultural and economic activities. Recently, economic crisis and political unrest in the country triggered the organization of various women's groups quite vocal about their hopes, griefs, fears and protests over national issues.

³⁰NCRFW and UP College of Education, op. cit., pp. 86 and 390-392.

"We are the housewives, parents and teachers fighting for survival," says a banner of the National Organization of Women (NOW) in a rally staged by all-women organizers. NOW is a feminist group which seeks the involvement of women in political democracy in the country.

The women who used to shy off from politics are now with protest groups speaking up, marching for "truth, justice and democracy" and espousing "the need for a movement that shall genuinely work for the interest and needs of women."

Presented in the following are some issues/activities of women's groups whose objectives and commitments are geared toward national democracy and protection of basic human rights for the attainment and strengthening of peace in the country.

Note that most of these women's groups are loose organizations with no definite organizational structure and membership and have been only a recent phenomenon in Metro Manila. All these have added to the list and collective efforts of older civic groups affiliated with CAWP who have already gained public recognition.

a. Campaign Against Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Minors

- 1) In 1978, the Concerned Women of the Philippines denounced election frauds and the exploitation of public school teachers during the 1978 national election. It supported Pampanga teachers in their defense of the sanctity of the ballot.

In the field of human rights, CWP has been collaborating with various other organizations such as Task Force Detainees, the Citizen's Organizations for Political Detainees, KAPATID for the protection of the rights of political prisoners. Specifically, it asked for the establishment of guidelines to ensure the protection and safety of women and girls detained or may be arrested by the military and police.³¹

- 2) Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women (TW-MAE-W) coordinates with other women's groups in its synchronized protest action against sex tours in Asia to protect the degradation of Filipino women and their portrayal as sex objects. Also, appalled by the health conditions of women detainees, TW-MAE-W urged that the immediate release of all women detained be the subject of campaign.

During the celebration of the International Women's Day (8 March 1982), women lobbied against the legalization of prostitution at the Batasang Pambansa (National Assembly).

³¹Philippine Panorama, *The Concerned Women: Tomorrow May Be Too Late*, 29 May 1983, pp. 7-14.

3)CAWP's Program of Action includes a campaign against the exploitation of women and minors to improve the status of women in media, domestic and overseas employment, tourism and against the proliferation of advertised racket on Filipino women for sale by marriage bureaus abroad.

A special program initiated on 25 November 1983 under the joint efforts of CAWP, TW-MAE-W, CARITAS, Ecumenical Women Against Exploitation, NCRFW and other government offices, women's groups, youth sector and the military is the nationwide campaign called "STOP", an acronym for Stop Trafficking of Pilipinas. It is directed primarily against the pimps, protectors, agents, recruiters, managers, brothel owners and all actors behind trafficking in girls (and boys, too) and women locally and internationally. It is also directed against other forms of sexual abuse such as assault by the military or lascivious harassment of women workers in factories and offices.

Among its achievements are the following:

- Campaign against pornographic materials, confiscation and burning of comics and magazines for indecent portrayal of Filipino women; taking to court a publisher of pornographic materials.
- Setting up of rehabilitation homes for women victims (e.g. CARITAS).
- Stirring awareness of the authorities and the public on the growth of child prostitution through rallies and demonstrations.

Recently, it supported the Parliamentary Bill No. 4311; "An act to provide a stronger deterrence to Child prostitution by providing a stiffer penalty, for protection of children (girls and boys) against Sexual Exploitation Act."

- Establishing linkages with national and international organizations concerned with exploitation of women and girls.

b. Protest Against Nuclear Power Plant

Under the leadership of GABRIELA ³² (General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action), five women's groups protested against the construction of the nuclear plant in Morong, Bataan and stressed the harmful effects of the plant to the environment eventually affecting the pregnant women and the unborn children. The women stressed:

"We are for progress . . . But we simply cannot see how our people will benefit from the nuclear reactors. We have almost nothing to gain but everything to lose, in terms of human lives and well-being, in the permanent destruction of natural resources, in people's hard-earned money."

³²GABRIELA is the umbrella organization of about fifteen newly-formed women's movements in urban Metro Manila.

Furthermore, the women have held press conferences, symposia on the Nuclear Plant, multi-sectoral convention on "The Significance of Women's Social and Political Action in the Present National Crisis"; picketed the Ministry of Energy and followed this with a Day of Prayer and fasting.³³

c. Protest Against Military Bases

Actively involved in the uplift of the status of Filipino women, the CAWP, through its National President, has made various unified stands on current issues involving women, the latest of which was the inclusion of social problems in the Fil-Am bases talks.

CAWP underscores the social problems emanating from the military bases which have "become alarmingly a national scandal and have given Filipino womanhood and the Filipino people as a whole, a very ugly image all over the world." These social problems, according to the CAWP President, must be a "primordial concern in the review of the military airbase agreement so that preventive and rehabilitation programs could be drawn up."

Other sectors and concerned women's groups documented their plight, too.

d. Political Education

The League of Women Voters of the Philippines, Inc. (LWVP) in cooperation with other NGO's and government offices such as COMELEC, DCI Women Lawyers Club sponsored seminars and symposia on the proper exercise of suffrage, on salient features of the New Election Code, on the Rights and Duties of Citizens; and observes "Women's Suffrage Day" every 30th of April as part of the Information, Dissemination and Education Program.

The Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines urges women to exercise their rights and assert proper influence in public life. It also initiates and supports appointments and election of women to responsible positions.

BSK Councils conduct "pulong pulongs" or fora and public meetings in their respective communities.

e. Other issues of concern of women pressure groups are the following:

demand for a greater participation of women in decision-making; equality in employment where female workers receive lower pay than male workers; security of tenure among women workers who are threatened with lay-off; protection from harassment of women unionist; restoration of basic human rights of free speech, free assembly, free press, the right to strike and the right to just wages; abolition of the Preventive Detention Act (PDA) and PD 1834 "which makes almost every form of peaceful protest a seditious act punishable with death or life imprisonment", the full investigation of the Aquino assassination and³⁴ the Consumers' exploitation such as the case against MERALCO (Manila Electric Company), the Food and Drug Administration and multi-national companies (e.g., drugs, infant formulas).

³³ *Times Journal*, 14 September 1984 and *Weekend Magazine*, 30 September 1984.

³⁴ *WHO Magazine*, 17 November 1983.

II. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

A. Gains and Losses

Although there are no legal impediments to the enjoyment of the civic and political rights of men and women as explicitly described by the 1973 Constitution of the Philippines, generally the status of women in politics and other decision-making positions hardly changed as these continue to be male-dominated especially at the higher policy-making level both in elective and appointive ranks. Women's representation is still token.

Studies also reveal that the average Filipina, other than voting during elections, is not very enthusiastic over political activities. Generally, political participation is merely in the form of voting, helping in campaigns and participating in socio-civic-charitable organizations but they rarely stand for elections themselves. Even in political parties, their participation is nil.

Women's marginal participation in politics has been further substantiated by the research on values and attitudes of Filipino women jointly undertaken by NCRFW and the UP College of Education. According to the study, women have moderately positive attitudes towards politics; however, they refrain from participating directly with the government and their political views tend to be conservative.

However, despite this general picture of women in public affairs, some positive developments have arisen and improvements or gains have been observed during the decade.

1. The observance of the International Decade on Women has undoubtedly raised the level of consciousness of the Filipinos in general and the Filipino women in particular of the active and potent force of women in politics and decision-making at international, national and community levels. Increased participation of women in different decision-making posts implies greater opportunity for them to be heard and considered in national policy initiation and implementation.

2. Women's decisiveness in elections is apparent. In the exercise of suffrage, Filipino women have been actively and dutifully exercising their right to vote. On the average, women comprise 49.4 percent of the population eligible for voting. Data show that women exhibit a consistently higher turn-out rate than the men. The same trend is seen in five elections held during the decade. Therefore, when women decide to support a candidate, they can be a very potent force. This was tested in the recent national election. For instance, an independent woman candidate won one of the three slots because she was strongly supported by the women who kept vigil over the ballot boxes to insure the safety of the votes. Also, it is striking that where women candidates won, they obtained the highest or second highest number of votes in the last election leading other winning male candidates in places where they vied for popular votes, a positive indication of trust and faith in women among the electorate.

3. In elective posts, there has been an increase in the number of women candidates from 30 to 52 in 1978 and 1984 although percentage-wise such increase is not reflected. In the last 1980 local election, minimal increase was noted at the municipal level particularly in the mayoral and vice-mayoral posts. Women's representation as barangay captains grew almost twice as much between the two barangay elections of 1971 and 1982.

4. As regards the total percentage of women in appointive positions . . . Cabinet, Constitutional Commissions, Legislative, Diplomatic Service, Judiciary, Career Executive Service, women accounted for 27.48 percent of those in the diplomatic service in 1984, the only area where the Philippines achieved its goal of increasing women's participation in public affairs to at least 20 percent.

Increase in the total percentage of women diplomats and jurists were also noted from 24.06% to 27.48% and from 6.2% to 7.5% respectively.

5. In the higher echelons of civil service, available statistics displayed increases in the number of female civil servants from 1979 to 1983 (25% to 36%). If this trend continues in 1985, at least half of the higher civil service will be women. At present, the percentage of women occupying top positions in the civil service is still very small when compared to that of men.

6. Women are proving their leadership skills in the organized sector. Based on data from local reports filed at the Bureau of Labor Relations in 1979-1982, there were 84 unions with women presidents although women officers totalled only less than five percent of all women union members of the 968 local union reports processed.

7. One particular significant progress that occurred in middle management is that the number of women in the administrative, executive and managerial levels increased from 17.5 percent to 25.0 percent between 1978 to 1983. On the darker side, women have yet to prove their skills and capabilities in the management field since so far, they constituted only one quarter of the total number of executives and managers in 1983.

8. Filipino women are a potent force in the community. They participate in decision-making at the community level to effect desirable changes in the environment through active involvement in women's organizations. The preceding data on women as community workers project a high degree of participation in social, civic and community activities. Studies also reveal that their social participation is relatively greater than their political involvement. Moreover, the decade saw the increased activism of women and the proliferation of community organizations either run by women or for women.

There are two types of organizations women are involved in. One type extends socio-cultural, economic, educational and political services. These are typified by CAWP and the BSK, Inc. with municipal and provincial chapters reaching out to the grassroots level for total community development. Women's closer affiliation with these formal organizations whose activities

range from civic, religious to professional has strengthened throughout the decade. Specifically, rural women were provided greater opportunities to improve their status. They have displayed increasing involvement in educational, civic and political activities such as skills training, health and nutrition programs, community beautification, club memberships, community "pulong-pulong" or fora, public meetings, etc. More and more women are venturing into economic and income-generating activities as one way of coping with the economic crisis.

The other type of women's group belongs to the new wave of militant women who address themselves to the present national issues particularly those which affect them through "non-conventional" means (i.e., demonstrations, protests, rallies, strikes, etc.). There are reportedly 120 women's movement of this kind whose membership include the urban elite, middle and lower classes of society according to the Center for Women Resources.³⁵ This trend is more evident in the urban areas where women have been vocal about their interest in politics and other national issues. This other aspect of political awakening paves the way for more solidified women's groups advocating for social reforms and women's rights.

9. Despite a general observation that Filipino women are politically passive in the sense that they do not stand for elections, significant trends gained during the latter part of the decade proved to be a door-opening for women's greater involvement in politics. The classic example is what happened in the province of Cavite where a woman leader and candidate for national election stood pat on the principle condemning "discrimination against women." She was excluded from the official slate of candidate of the party in favor of a new-comer. She ran as an independent candidate while the women electorate organized and rallied behind her candidacy. Women's voices are being heard on issues of national interest. Thus, women played lead roles in bringing the fragmented opposition groups together.

10. An alternative approach to the study of women's political participation not only through "usual indicators" such as voters, participants in campaigns, political candidates but also through assessing their role in the Philippine bureaucracy has been suggested (in a doctoral dissertation).

Findings of the study attest to the contention that women in the higher civil service do perform political roles in the policy process, in the sense that they see themselves directly or indirectly participating in policy formulation in the bureaucracy. The bureaucracy is the center of policy process and therefore performs a political function. (Tapales, Chapter 5). This is especially true in the Philippines where the President has relied so much on the bureaucracy for advice.

³⁵A research and documentation institution primarily concerned with women peasants and workers.

Women's direct participation includes actual policy initiation or actual drafting of policy proposals submitted to the head of office like providing cabinet members drafts of administration bills and comments on proposals from the rest of the Batasan. The manner policies are implemented may be through defining rules, monitoring results and specifying details, etc. Both male and female respondents believe that they participate in different steps in policy-making and claim that their projects were actually carried out through statutes, presidential pronouncements and ministry circulars.

Women stay in the bureaucracy because of the feel of power in decision-making process; however, they are not necessarily aware that this kind of participation is political in nature and within the sphere of public affairs. Further, the study reported that women are attracted to the less obvious political type of work.

Gender and educational qualifications are not important considerations in determining influence in policy-making as far as the Filipino bureaucrats are concerned. There are no differences seen as far as their influence in policy-making.

Furthermore, the women assert the same satisfaction expressed by the men about working in the government — ability to influence decisions, public service and security of tenure.

11. The Filipino housewife continues to play an important role in the household where she is involved in major decision-making. She manages the family income and decides on matters mostly pertaining to the household while at the same time she is productively involved in the labor force to augment family income. Although never the sole decision-maker in the home, she is often consulted and exerts great influence over her husband's decision-making.

Losses experienced during the decade on women may be defined in terms of areas where there have been no changes, no significant increases to effect a generally improved situation of women in public affairs. They are particularly noted in the following areas.

1. In the higher political and decision-making ranks, only a handful of the women assume national and local leadership.

On the national level, women comprised at most 5.4 percent representation in the legislative body (10 of 184 seats). This did not increase significantly throughout the decade; in fact, the Batasan was one woman representative — less in the 1984 election. In terms of women's representation during the electoral period from 1978 to 1984, no perceptible increase occurred.

The 5.4 percent representation in the parliament however, may not prove effective in articulating the needs and interests particular to women in the nation's policy planning. As Benitez aptly said, "the presence of women in the Batasan, however desirable, is not enough for women's concerns to be justly reflected in legislative priorities." Because of "men's overwhelming numbers and traditional seniority in government experience, their priorities generally prevail."

2. Women's number in the provincial level as Provincial Governors and Provincial Board Members did not show any marked increase in the last 1980 election as well as in the presence of women in the Cabinet in 1984.
3. According to the findings of the study on "Women in the Philippine Bureaucracy: Towards An Alternative Approach to the Study of Political Participation" aimed at assessing the role of women in the Philippine bureaucracy, "sex discrimination still exists in the bureaucracy because there are more women at the lower levels than the upper ranks." The bulk of women is centered at the middle, professional level where there are 63.6 percent of them including teachers.
4. The only available data on women holding top positions in the private sector conducted by BWM in 1981 revealed that women are still a minority. Only 14.8 percent are in top management out of the 1,044 women holding managerial and supervisory positions in the survey.
5. Data on women in middle management are scarce. Based on the limited information on this section, it is apparent that the number of women in middle management (managerial and supervisory levels) decreases with the rise in position. When further compared with women in top-most positions, there is a larger proportion of women in middle and professional level.

B. Factors Contributing to Observed Trends

Significant changes and trends attained during the decade may be attributed to several factors.

1. Legislative factors

Letter of Instruction No. 974 issued by the President on January 1980 directed all government ministries, offices and other instrumentalities including government-owned or controlled corporations to afford equal opportunities to women in terms of employment, remuneration and promotion to decision-making positions where they are qualified. Copies of said LOI were distributed to all government offices for strict compliance.

As party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,³⁶ the Philippines is obliged to observe and carry out the principles and measures of the Convention and to condemn all forms of discrimination in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil and other fields. Specifically, Article 7 provides for the adoption of appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination in political and public life particularly in elections, in holding public office and government planning and participating in non-governmental organizations concerned with public and political issues.

³⁶ Ratified by the Philippines in August, 1980.

2. Other Factors

A more specific factor which relates success of women on the top, according to Tapales' survey, is that women make it to top positions seemingly because of higher educational qualifications. This is one common observation among women in this category. The women tend to have slightly higher educational qualifications than the men. The survey also revealed other factors which spell success for a woman in the bureaucracy – desire to serve the public, knowledge of her influence in policy formulation and desire to continue in government. Furthermore, high career orientation among women in the career executive service is a vital factor in making them reach their present levels of success.

C. Obstacles/Problems Encountered in Elevating the Status of Women in Politics and Decision-making.

Filipino women play dual political roles as candidates to elective and appointive positions and as qualified voters. As electors, women have been actively exercising their right to vote since 1937. However, only a small number of women run for and are elected to public offices. The main obstacle to women's participation in politics and higher decision-making levels is still the traditional attitude that politics and government as public life, are men's exclusive preserves while private (domestic) life is women's primary concern. This so-called "privatization of women's concern" according to H.Z. Benitez "has obscured the public nature of their activities." As a consequence, women are socially recognized as only performing subordinate and supportive functions. Eventually, they shy away from activities of public nature (politics) and stick with their familial role as wives, mothers and homemakers. Both men and women appear to share this view. Hence, even if equality of political rights is guaranteed, women prefer men to women candidates and even if they decide to elect women candidates, not enough of them run for public office. Those few who run either come from a family of well-known politicians, are influential and wealthy enough to have the sympathy of the majority of the electorate. Women can also be dictated upon by their husband as to who to vote for. In general, they are not enthusiastic over political matters.

Even career women, generally, cannot afford to spend time in political affairs because if married they have the dual role of career women as well as mothers and housewives. Therefore, it is difficult for them to get politically involved and more particularly to assume leadership roles.

The notions of dual roles and traditional attitude towards women may also be the reasons why appointing authority who in most cases is a male or a male-dominated office does not easily consider women aspirants to higher positions.

D. Current and Forward Looking Strategies

The following steps were undertaken to counter traditional attitudes that politics is exclusively for the men:

1. Information campaigns and popularization of the law on women's rights and duties.
2. Active participation of women's groups such as the League of Women Voters, Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines, BSK, etc. by fielding women candidates, explaining election issues, campaigning for qualified women candidates as well as deserving male candidates who are sympathetic to women's cause.
3. Development of instructional materials to eliminate stereotyping of sex roles and to promote equality between men and women. These were successfully tested in a sample of schools in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in Metro Manila.

Although the study confirmed the relatively low rank in which leadership roles for women are placed by the students at all levels, it also showed that the integration of these concepts into classroom instruction starting in the primary grades can effectively bring about positive attitudes toward leadership roles for women.

4. Strengthening of linkages among the grassroots organizations (e.g., BSK, Inc.) so that these movements can grow bigger and recruit wider support from the women and at the same time provide leadership trainings for them.

Still much remains to be done in our continuous effort to improve the situation of women in decision-making bodies including politics. To ensure a continuing improved situation along this line, the following measures and strategies are envisaged for the future to remove obstacles women face in politics and decision-making positions.

1. To start early at developing healthy attitudes among the electorate through the schools and more importantly, to erase the traditional belief and myth that politics is "for men only." Eliminating sex biases may be also achieved through the role of media in portraying a positive image of the women.

H.Z. Benitez (Fookien Times, 1984-1985) stressed the important role of education for women's greater participation in public office.

"Women and men have to be re-educated to the idea that full human development requires that gender role differentiation be transcended. Education, be it formal, non-formal or informal should be expanded to accommodate goals that will guarantee women's participation in the family, and in civic and public affairs as co-equal citizens and partner in rebuilding and maintaining our country as a worthy member of the world community of independent and self-reliant nations."

2. For women to actively campaign for political parties to include deserving qualified women candidates in their tickets and to systematically organize and provide legal, financial and tactical support to candidates of their choice particularly deserving women candidates and also men candidates who are sympathetic to women's concerns.
3. To give due recognition for women already in politics and promoting them to leadership and decision-making positions where they qualify.
4. For women NGOs and government agencies concerned with women's welfare to focus or highlight on women's achievements and contributions in different fields thereby influencing decision-makers (or men) of the active and potent force of women.
5. To disseminate informational and educational materials developing and training women in all types of skills especially executive, administrative and managerial and other leadership skills in a consistent and intensive manner.
6. To continuously monitor the full and effective implementation of policies and laws relevant to women's advancement to decision-making structures such as the LOI No. 974 and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

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APPENDICES

Table 1: Members of Diplomatic Service Distributed
By Rank and Sex, 1979.

RANK	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% F
Chief of Mission, Class I*	29	3	32	9.37
Foreign Service Employees	23	2	25	8.00
Home Office Employees	6	1	7	14.28
Chief of Mission, Class II*	43	6	49	12.24
Foreign Service Employees	31	3	34	8.82
Home Office Employees	12	3	15	20.00
Minister – Counselor	27	8	35	22.86
Foreign Service Employees	21	7	28	25.00
Home Office Employees	6	1	7	14.28
Foreign Service Officer Class I	22	5	27	18.52
Foreign Service Employees	18	4	22	18.18
Home Office Employees	4	1	5	20.00
Foreign Service Officer Class II	24	12	36	33.33
Foreign Service Employees	17	9	26	34.61
Home Office Employees	7	3	10	30.00
Foreign Service Officer Class III	23	15	38	39.47
Foreign Service Employees	17	6	23	26.09
Home Service Employees	6	9	15	60.00
Foreign Service Officer Class IV	34	15	49	30.61
Foreign Service Employees	16	6	22	27.27
Home Office Employees	18	9	27	33.33
GRAND TOTAL	202	64	266	24.06

*with rank of Ambassador

Source: Personnel Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Table 2: Members of Diplomatic Service Distributed
by Rank and Sex as of May 1984.

RANK	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% F
Chief of Mission, Class I*	30	3	33	9.09
Foreign Service Employees	24	3	27	11.11
Home Office Employees	6	0	6	0
Chief of Mission, Class II*	43	5	48	10.42
Foreign Service Employees	36	1	37	2.70
Home Office Employees	7	4	11	36.36
Minister – Counselor	31	9	40	22.50
Foreign Service Employees	19	3	22	13.64
Home Office Employees	12	6	18	33.33
Foreign Service Officer Class I	23	13	36	36.11
Foreign Service Employees	14	10	24	41.67
Home Office Employees	9	3	12	25.00
Foreign Service Employees Class II	26	15	41	36.59
Foreign Service Employees	21	7	28	25.00
Home Office Employees	5	8	13	61.54
Foreign Service Officer Class III	30	14	44	31.82
Foreign Service Employees	24	10	34	29.41
Home Office Employees	6	4	10	40.00
Foreign Service Officer Class IV	36	24	60	40.00
Foreign Service Employees	20	9	29	31.03
Home Office Employees	16	15	31	48.39
GRAND TOTAL	219	83	302	27.48

*with rank of Ambassador

Source: *Bibliographic Register of Ambassadors of the Philippines, Career Chiefs of Mission, Counselors, Foreign Service Officers*, Office of the Executive Director of UN and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Table 3: Distribution of Regional Trial Judges According to Sex

Regional Trial Judges	Male	Female	Total	% F	Vacancies
NCR	122	11	133	8.27	8
Court of 1st Judicial Reg.	42	6	48	12.50	0
Court of 2nd Judicial Reg.	30	0	30	0	2
Court of 3rd Judicial Reg.	59	11	70	15.71	3
Court of 4th Judicial Reg.	69	6	75	8.00	0
Court of 5th Judicial Reg.	44	3	47	6.38	4
Court of 6th Judicial Reg.	44	2	46	4.35	15
Court of 7th Judicial Reg.	31	4	35	11.43	11
Court of 8th Judicial Reg.	26	0	26	0	7
Court of 9th Judicial Reg.	17	1	18	5.56	7
Court of 10th Judicial Reg.	28	1	29	3.45	2
Court of 11th Judicial Reg.	23	2	25	8.00	4
Court of 12th Judicial Reg.	18	0	18	0	1
TOTAL	553	47	600	7.83%	64

Source: Office of the Court of Administrator, c/o Justice Arturo B. Buena, Supreme Court, Manila, 1984.

Table 4: Distribution of Judges in Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts According to Sex

Trial Courts	Male	Female	Total	% F	Vacancies
1st Judicial Region	105	4	109	3.67	5
2nd Judicial Region	68	5	73	6.85	7
3rd Judicial Region	95	6	101	5.94	10
4th Judicial Region	44	8	52	15.38	7
5th Judicial Region	72	7	79	8.86	3
6th Judicial Region	66	1	67	1.49	9
7th Judicial Region	77	1	78	1.28	3
8th Judicial Region	80	4	84	4.76	4
9th Judicial Region	48	3	51	5.88	2
10th Judicial Region	60	3	63	4.76	11
11th Judicial Region	50	6	56	10.71	—
12th Judicial Region	34	2	36	5.56	11
TOTAL	799	50	849	5.89%	72

Source: Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court, Manila, 1984.

Table 5: Number of Government Personnel by Class, Level and Sex as of December 31, 1979.

Employment by Category and Level	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Philippines, Total	582,313	482,307	1,064,620	54.7	45.3	100
I. Career Service	452,774	434,445	887,219	51.0	48.9	100
1. First Level	220,508	115,273	335,781	65.7	34.3	100
2. Second Level	222,950	316,067	539,017	41.4	58.6	100
a. Non-teachers	156,712	102,016	258,728	60.6	39.4	100
b. Teachers	66,238	214,051	280,289	23.6	76.4	100
3. <u>Third Level</u>	<u>9,316</u>	<u>3,105</u>	<u>12,421</u>	<u>75.0</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>100</u>
II. Non-Career Service	129,539	47,862	177,401	73.0	27.0	100

Source: Civil Service Commission, Annual Report CY 1979.

Table 6: Number of Government Personnel by Class, Level and Sex as of December 31, 1980.

Employment by Category and Level	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Philippines, Total	571,844	525,622	1,097,466	52.1	47.9	100
I. Career Service	420,721	460,879	881,600	47.7	52.3	100
1. First Level	210,306	113,438	323,744	65.0	35.0	100
2. Second Level	204,208	345,247	549,455	37.0	63.0	100
a. Non-teachers	133,631	93,857	227,488	59.0	41.0	100
b. Teachers	70,577	251,390	321,967	22.0	78.0	100
3. <u>Third Level</u>	<u>6,207</u>	<u>2,194</u>	<u>8,401</u>	<u>73.9</u>	<u>26.1</u>	<u>100</u>
II. Non-Career Service	151,123	64,743	215,866	70.0	30.0	100

Source: Civil Service Commission Report, 1980.

Table 7: Government Personnel by Class, Level and Sex
as of December 31, 1983.

Employment by Category and Level	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Philippines, Total	610,386	595,036	1,205,422	50.6	49.4	100
Career Service	457,134	524,448	981,582	46.5	53.4	99.9
1. First Level	222,832	124,307	347,139	64.1	35.8	99.9
2. Second Level	226,702	395,838	622,540	36.4	63.6	100
a. Non-teachers	162,616	132,670	295,286	55.1	44.9	100
b. Teachers	64,086	263,168	327,254	19.6	80.4	100
3. <u>Third Level</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>4,303</u>	<u>11,903</u>	<u>63.8</u>	<u>36.1</u>	<u>99.9</u>
Non-Career Service	153,252	70,588	223,840	68.5	31.5	100

Source: Annual Report of Government Personnel 1983, Civil Service Commission.

Table 7: Government Personnel by Class, Level and Sex
as of December 31, 1983.

Employment by Category and Level	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Philippines, Total	610,386	595,036	1,205,422	50.6	49.4	100
I. Career Service	457,134	524,448	981,582	46.5	53.4	99.9
1. First Level	222,832	124,307	347,139	64.1	35.8	99.9
2. Second Level	226,702	395,838	622,540	36.4	63.6	100
a. Non-teachers	162,616	132,670	295,286	55.1	44.9	100
b. Teachers	64,086	263,168	327,254	19.6	80.4	100
3. <u>Third Level</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>4,303</u>	<u>11,903</u>	<u>63.8</u>	<u>36.1</u>	<u>99.9</u>
II. Non-Career Service	153,252	70,588	223,840	68.5	31.5	100

Source: Annual Report of Government Personnel 1983, Civil Service Commission.

Table 8: Number of Personnel in the National
Government Occupying CES Positions
By Ministry, By Sex
As of August 9, 1984

MINISTRY	Male	Female	Total Both Sexes	Vacant Positions	Total CES Positions
1. Ministry of Agrarian Reform	35	1	36	5	41
2. Ministry of Agriculture & Foods	56	11	67	4	71
3. Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports	39	16	55	8	63
4. Ministry of Energy	10	0	10	0	10
5. Ministry of Finance	62	3	65	7	72
6. General Service Administration	7	2	9	2	11
7. Ministry of Health	32	11	43	9	52
8. Ministry of Human Settlements	2	1	3	1	4
9. Ministry of Justice	48	6	54	2	56
10. Ministry of Labor and Employment	30	15	45	7	52
11. Ministry of Local Government	35	2	37	7	44
12. Ministry of National Defense	15	0	15	2	17
13. Ministry of Natural Resources	93	6	99	9	108
14. Ministry of Public Works and Highways	50	2	52	1	53
15. Ministry of Social Services and Development	4	21	25	6	31
16. Ministry of Trade and Industry	17	5	22	6	28
17. Ministry of Transportation and Communication	65	3	68	11	79
18. Ministry of Tourism	10	1	11	1	12
19. Ministry of Budget and Management	14	8	22	8	30
20. Media Affairs	24	4	28	10	38
21. Ministry of Cultural Minorities	3	0	3	0	3
22. National Economic and Development Authority	45	11	56	3	59
23. National Science and Technology Authority	13	2	15	4	19
24. Office of the President	52	9	61	7	68
25. Civil Service Commission	26	14	40	2	42
26. Commission on Elections	35	6	41	4	45
TOTAL	822	160	982	126	1,108

Source: Career Executive Service Board Plantilla, Career Executive Service Board, Pasig Metro Manila.

The figures were obtained by tabulating the number of incumbents of the Career Service Positions by Ministry, By Sex (which means those having CESO I-IV, Acting, Permanent or OIC as their status of Employment).

Table 9: Number of Top Government Officials
By Position, By Sex, 1984.

POSITION TITLE (Partial List)	Total	Male	Female*	% of F
1. Line Ministers	18	16	2	11.1
2. Deputy Ministers	40	37	3	7.5
3. Assistant Ministers	27	24	3	11.5
4. Assistant Secretaries	25	17	8	32.0
5. Directors	357	302	55	15.4
6. Assistant Directors	93	85	8	8.6
7. Directors General	4	3	1	25.0
8. Deputy/Assistant Director General	7	7	0	0
9. Chairman of Constitutional Commission	3	2	1	0
			(deceased)	
10. Chairman of Councils/Boards/Government Corporation, etc.	41	36	5	12.2
11. Commissioners in Ministries/ Other Offices	28	25	3	10.7
12. Assistant/Deputy/Associate Commissioners	13	11	2	15.4
13. Commissioners of NCRFW	23	5	18	78.3
14. Administrators	21	20	1	4.8
15. Presidents of Government Corporations	20	20	—	0
16. Presidents of State Colleges and Universities	74	67	7	9.5
17. Ambassadors	102	94	8	7.9
TOTAL	896	771	124	13.9

*Areas of Responsibility: (Partial)

Line Minister	— Human Settlements
	— Social Services
Deputy Minister	— Tourism
	— Budget and Management
	— Social Services
Assistant Minister	— Labor and Employment (Central Headquarters)
	— Public Works (Manpower Development)
	— Agriculture
Chairman of other Offices	— Women's Commission
	— Population
	— Music Promotion
	— Council for the Welfare of the Children
	— National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons

- Chairman of Constitutional Commission
 - Director-General
 - Commissioner
 - Assistant Commissioner
 - Administrator
- Civil Service (deceased)
 - Technology Resource Center
 - Insurance
 - Central Board of Assessment Appeals (Finance)
 - Settlement of Land Problem (Justice)
 - Land Registration (Justice)
 - Securities and Exchange (Finance)
 - Overseas Employment (Labor)

Source: National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, *UN Questionnaire to Governments: World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women, 1984* based on the Directory of Government Agencies published by the Office of Media Affairs, pp. 42-43. Positions are not in hierarchical order.

Table 10: Election years from 1973 to 1984

Election year	Event
1. July 27-28, 1973	referendum
2. February 27-28, 1975	referendum
3. October 16-17, 1976	referendum-plebiscite
4. April 17, 1977	plebiscite (Regions IX and XII)
5. December 17, 1977	referendum
6. April 7, 1978	Interim Batasang Pambansa Election (National Assembly)
7. May 7, 1979	Elections (Regions IX and XII) for Sangguniang Pampook
8. January 30, 1980	Local election for governors and mayors (includes election of elective officials of Districts and Municipalities of Metro Manila and provincial officials)
9. April 7, 1981	plebiscite
10. June 16, 1981	Presidential Election
11. May 17, 1982	Barangay (Village) Election
12. January 27, 1982	plebiscite
13. March 1984	referendum
14. May 14, 1984	National Assembly Election

Source: Records and Statistics Division, Commission on Elections.

Table 11: Percentage of qualified electors who voted, by sex 1953-1984

Election year (before the Decade of Women)	1953-1971		Difference in %* Male/Female
	Voters' Turn-Out Rate in % MALE	FEMALE	
1953	77.0	77.50	.5
1955	77.37	77.39	.02
1957	75.86	75.05	(.81)
1959	81.50	82.05	.5
1961	79.45	79.41	(.04)
1963	79.14	80.11	.97
1965	75.19	76.63	1.44
1967	81.29	82.09	.8
1969	79.09	80.29	1.22
1970	68.19	68.02	(.17)
1971	80.03	81.62	1.59
Election year (during the decade)	1978-1984		
1978	85.08	85.97	.89
1980	76.37	77.01	.64
1981	80.53	81.36	.83
1982	65.89	66.80	.91
1984	88.74	90.15	1.41

*Figures in parenthesis represent an excess of male over female voters.

Source: Commission on Elections.

Table 12: Number of Registered Voters and Voting Population By Sex, 1978-1984

YEAR	Population Eligible for Voting				Population Who Actually Voted			
	(1978-1984)	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	% F	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
1978 N	21,464,213	10,796,437	10,667,776	49.7	18,356,849	9,185,495	9,171,354	49.96
1980 L	24,881,021	12,598,910	12,282,111	49.4	19,081,270	9,622,194	9,459,076	49.6
1981 N	26,986,451	13,642,462	13,343,989	49.4	21,843,829	10,986,619	10,857,210	49.7
1982 L	29,091,152	14,731,260	14,359,892	49.4	19,298,910	9,706,645	9,592,265	49.7
1984 N	24,824,934	12,560,633	12,264,301	49.4	22,202,500	11,146,146	11,056,354	49.8

Legend:

N – National Elections

L – Local Elections

* – Percentage of female voters out of total voters

Source: Records and Statistics Division, Commission on Elections.

Table 13: Membership in Women's Organizations
in Two Comparative Years, 1975 and 1980

Name of Member Organizations National/Local (Partial List)	1975	1980
1. Girls Scouts of the Philippines	1,176,908	2,164,253
2. Katipunan ng Bagong Pilipina	1,190	18,000
3. League of Women Voters of the Philippines	235	575
4. National Federation of Women's Club of the Philippines	300,000	380,000
5. Nutritionists and Dieticians Association of the Philippines	400	1,500
6. Philippine Central Conference Board of Women's Work	12,000	12,301
7. Philippine Association of University Women	911	1,340
8. Philippine Home Economics Association	6,000	6,000
9. Philippine Women's Christian Temperance Union	1,000	1,500
10. Salvation Army Home League	1,151	1,403
11. Soroptimist International of the Philippines	600	900
12. Women Lawyer's Association of the Philippines	2,000	3,000
13. Women's Auxiliary to the Philippine Medical Association	450	900
14. Centro Escolar University Women's Club	150	210
15. CIVICAS	30	30
16. Department of Trade (DCI Women's Club)	54	48
17. Federation of Women's Civic Organizations of Quezon City	3,500	6,200
18. Inner Wheel Club of Manila	190	191
19. Kababaihang Rizalista	196	280
20. Manila Women's Club	90	150
21. Manila YMCA	2,500	4,789
22. Pi Lambda Theta	30	60
TOTAL	1,509,584	2,603,630

Source: National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). *Report on the Appraisal of the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in the Philippines*. September 1983, Annex, p. 27.

