

***Fiji: Country WID Profile***

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Planning Department  
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# Country WID Profile (Fiji)

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**Abbreviation  
( Fiji )**

<b>AusAID</b>	<b>Australian Agency for International Development</b>
<b>DPT</b>	<b>Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus</b>
<b>DWC</b>	<b>Department of Women and Culture</b>
<b>GDP</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>
<b>GNP</b>	<b>Gross National Product</b>
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>ILO</b>	<b>International Labor Organization</b>
<b>MFAJ</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan</b>
<b>STD</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Program</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Population Fund</b>
<b>WID</b>	<b>Women in Development</b>

## 1. Basic Profile

### 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile					Ref.	
Economic indicators	GNP per capita	Growth rate of real GDP ('96-'97)		Inflation rate*	Gini coefficient*	
(1997)	US\$2,470	2.70%		NA	NA	1)2)
Public sector ('91-'95)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others	
Expenditure to each sector	8.3%	15.9%	NA	5.0%	NA	3)
Population (Mid of 1996)	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate(1997)		
Total	7.79 million	46%		2.4%		1)
% of Women	48.5%	NA				
Industry/GDP	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Manufacture/Industries		
	22.8%	27.4%	49.8%	NA		3)
Proportion of workers	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP('94)		
Total	57.8%	NA	NA	NA		1)
Women	NA	NA	NA			
Labor Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage	Women's income/Total income*		
Total	2.88 million	6.0%	NA	NA		1)
Women's workers/women	NA	NA	NA			
Participation in decision-making	Women/Total			Women/Total(1991)		
Member of parliament(1999)	12.0%			Managers	9.6%	4)
Ministries (1995)	9.0%			Technical experts	44.7%	4)
Deputy ministries (1995)	11.0%					4)
Law for women			Details			
Family Law	1995		NA			1)
Employment Act	1995		NA			1)
Workers Compensation Bill	1995		NA			1)
Sustainable Development Bill	1995		NA			1)
Ratification and signature of international law for women			Ratification	Year		
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women			Yes	NA		1)
Policy of WID						
The Fiji Government's Development Strategy for Fiji						1)
The National Women's Plan of Action						1)
Governmental organization of WID						
National machinery	Ministry for Women					1)
	Withing the Government					1)

#### References

- 1) JICA, Profile Study on Women in Development in Fiji, 1998
- 2) ADB, Asian Development Outlook, 1998
- 3) World Bank, World Development Report 1998, 1998
- 4) UNDP, Human Development Report 1998, 1998

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.24)

## 1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.	
Life expectancy (1996)	Total 72.75	Male 70.6	Female 74.9	Population growth rate (1997) 2.4%	1)	
Expansion of health services	Population per Doctor		1,853	Population per Nurse and Midwife	443	2)3)
Government expenditure to health ( % of GDP '91-'95 )			8.3%			1)
Infant mortality rate* (per 1,000)			% of infants with low birth weight*	% of the vaccinated	('90-'95) 1-year-old children	
Total	16 persons (1998)		12% ('90-'94)	BCG	100%	3)
Female	NA			DPT	97%	3)
Under-5 mortality rate* (per 1,000)				Polio	99%	3)
Total	202 persons (1996)			Measles	94%	3)
Family planning	Contraceptive prevalence rate ('90-'97) 32%			Total fertility rate* (1993)	2.8	3)
% of births attended by trained health personnel*	96%			Age at first marriage	18.0	1)3)
Maternal anemia rate*	NA					2)
Maternal mortality rate	27 per million					3)
Nutrition				Oral rehydration therapy use rate*	NA	3)
Iodine deficiency	% of households consuming iodized salt 31%			Malnutrition ('89-'95)	Under-five 7%	3)
Community health service (1990—96)						
Access to safe water	100%			Access to adequate sanitation	92%	2)
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected			Cause	NA	
Statistics (1995)	NA					

## 1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.	
Education system	Compulsory education 10 years, Primary education 6 years				1)	
Public expenditure on education			12.8% (1995)			
/GDP (1995)	15.9%				2)	
Adult literacy rate (1995)	Total 78.5%			Female 77%, Male 80%	1)	
by local						
Primary education(1996)	Net enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)		(Evening class)	
Male	99%	NA	NA		NA	4)
Female	100%	NA	NA		NA	4)
Secondary education ('90-'95)	Gross enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)		(Evening class)	
Male	64%	NA	NA		NA	3)
Female	65%	NA	NA		NA	3)
Higher education	Enrolment ratio		Technical and professional higher education			
Total	NA		% of female		NA	
Female	NA					

### References

- 1) JICA, Profile Study on Women in Development in Fiji, 1998
- 2) World Bank, World Development Report 1998, 1998
- 3) UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 1998, 1998
- 4) UNESCO, World Education Report 1998, 1998

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.24)

## 2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender

### 2-1 General Situation of Women in Fiji

#### General Situation of Women in Fiji

- Fiji, categorized as a lower-middle income country, is one of the Pacific countries which have attained to an economic growth.
- The Ministry of Women, National Machinery, adopted “the National Women’s Plan of Action ” on November, 9, 1998.
- The health service to women and children in the 1980-1990 has been expanded.
- At primary and secondary education levels, there is no large gender gap, while the gender gap in enrolment rates appears after secondary. The enrolment rates for women are lower than men’s.
- Fijian society influentially remains a traditional social structure where the chief of communities dominates, while the mutual support system within each commune plays a role in public welfare.

The population of Fiji is 779,000(1997) (female 49%). GNP per capita is US\$2,470 and the average annual GDP growth rate was 5.3% in 1996-97 (World Bank, 1998). The Gini coefficient is 0.568, indicating that an income gap between the rich and poor is large (World Bank, 1998). The number of the poor in urban areas increased from 4% in 1974 to 50% in 1994. 62% of the total population live in rural area, and 67% of the working population are in rural areas (65% male; 82% female) (World Bank, 1998).

Fiji became independent from Britain in 1970. From 1972 to 1987, Fiji was governed by the Alliance Party. In April 1987, the Alliance Party lost office to a coalition led by the Fiji Labor Party, and the National Federation Party supported by Indo-Fijians. Immediately after then, Fijian got unsatisfied with economic and social superiority of India, which led to transferring to republican system by a military coup in 1987. In 1992, the interim government governed, and in July, 1998, the government enacted the revision of the Constitution. The main industries are tourism and sugar production. While the production in 2 main industries went down during the military coup, the industries have achieved a positive growth since 1990. Particularly, the manufacturing industry centering on textile grew up, since the temporal government had promoted exported-oriented industry, and adopted generous tax system from the late 1980’s to the early 1990’s (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997).

At present, Fiji, categorized as a lower-middle income country, is one of the Pacific countries which have attained to an economic growth. GNP per capita is US \$2470 (World Bank, 1998a). Although the average GDP growth rate in 1990-1996 was 2.7%, the economy has tended to be generally stagnated owing to the Asian currency crisis and the decrease of commodity prices. As seen in the GDP negative

growth rate in 1997 (-1.0%), the economic situation is still severe, and economic reform led by private sector is expected (ADB, 1998)

The population in 1997 is 779,000 and the average population growth in 1997 was 2.4% (World Bank, 1998). The health service to women and children in the 1980-1990 has been expanded. As a result, the maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased, and the female life expectancy rate has been lengthened. In terms of enrolment rates for primary and secondary education, there is no large gender gap. In 1996, the net enrolment rates at primary education were 99% for men; 100% for women, while the net enrolment rates at secondary education were 64% for men; 65% for women (UNICEF, 1998). The gender gap appears after secondary, the enrolment rates for women are lower than men's.

Women play significant roles in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, particularly, subsistence farming. The rates of female labor participation in informal sector are 22% in agriculture sector; 59% in fisheries sector. The real labor participation rates are more or less the same for both men and women above 15 years old. But the female labor participation rate is thought as one-fourth of men's, since the economic activities by women like subsistence farming is not recognized in the statistic figures (DWC, 1994). Garment manufacturing accounts for Fiji \$185 millions, which is mainly made up by female labor compensated with low wage (JICA, 1998).

Fiji consists of diversified cultures. Major ethnic groups are ethnic Fijian (51%), Indo-Fijian (43.6%), and Rotuman, Europeans followed by Chinese (MFAJ, 1998). Until now, Fijian society influentially remains a traditional social structure where the chief of communities dominates, while the mutual support system within each commune plays a role in public welfare. Official languages are English, and Fijian. Hindu is also used (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997). Regarding religion, ethnic Fijians are Christian (52.9%), Indo-Fijian are Hindi (38.2%) or Muslim (7.8%).

Government Policy on WID/Gender

- “The Policies and Programmes for Sustainable Growth” based on “the Fiji Government’s Development Strategy for Fiji” addresses the issue of “Gender and Equity”.
- The government ensures women's participation in all social activities.
- The Ministry of Women, National Machinery, adopted “the National Women’s Plan of Action ” in 1998.

“The Policies and Programmes for Sustainable Growth” based on “the Fiji Government’s Development Strategy for Fiji” addresses the issue of “Gender and Equity”. The government ensures that women can participate in all social activities. The main issue is to utilize women’s special skills in the development process. It also mentions that women can participate in decision-making process at the national level through an affirmative action, individual special skill, and social attainment (Development Strategies for Fiji, Ministry of National Planning, cited in JICA, 1997).

The Ministry of Women, National Machinery, adopted “the National Women’s Plan of Action ” on November, 9, 1998, based on the governmental commitment in the Fifth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. At present, the government is in a process of making a report on achieving the goals towards CEDAW and it is planned to be announced in October, 1998.



## 2- 3 National Machinery

### Ministry of Women

- The government established the Ministry for Women in 1998.
- The activities are to: 1) to develop inter-sectoral linkages, 2) mobilize support among line-ministries, and 3) collaborate with NGOs and the rest of the community

The government established the Ministry for Women in 1998, by upgrading the Department for Women and Culture set up in 1987. . The Ministry is responsible for ensuring that women's issues and concerns are mainstreamed into national policies and programs. The activities are to: 1) to develop inter-sectoral linkages, 2) mobilize support among line-ministries, and 3) collaborate with NGOs and the rest of the community (JICA, 1998). The policies and strategies are as follows:

1. To ensure a gender-balanced partnership at all levels of decision-making
2. To strive for equal partnership in political, economic and social development
3. To promote equal opportunity in employment
4. To assist disadvantaged women and young women in their economic activities
5. To examine legislation with the view to safeguarding the human rights of women
6. To integrate women's concerns into all planning processes and policy areas

The Ministry has staff members in all centers –Suva, Nausori, Vaileka, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Sigatoka, Navua, Levuka, Nabouwalu, Savusavu, and Labasa. These centers support the improvement of family quality of living-condition in rural areas by providing classes on sewing, cooking and health and nutrition. In addition, the Ministry is supportive of the work of NGOs, by financing, organizing, and conducting appropriate workshops, and providing resource people.

### 3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

##### Education

- There is no large gender gap in the net-enrolment rates at the primary and secondary education levels.
- The women's enrolment rates at higher levels are lower than men's rates. In 1992, women comprised only about 26% of total enrolment at the Fiji Institute of Technology.
- The government has collaborated with local communities and NGOs in the long-term and comprehensive ways, particularly, in education sector.
- The Ministry of Education supports the school management, focusing on the education for school dropouts and the young.

#### 【General Situation】

In spite of no compulsory education system available in Fiji, the government: 1) provides free primary education at both public and private school, textbooks and free teaching materials, and 2) allocate teachers to private school (Kokusyai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997). The Ministry of Education has neither a specific policy nor a budget for Women in Development. Women constitute 53% of all employees of the Ministry of Education, although they are concentrated in the lower grades. Female teachers constitute a half of all teachers at primary education, while they are less than a half at secondary education; one-third at higher education. Basic education for all is offered with a high rate of enrolment (about 98% for primary classes 1-8). This was achieved as a result of strong community participation in education (JICA, 1998).

#### 【Primary and Secondary Education】

The net enrolment rates at primary education were 99% for men; 100% for women in 1996 (UNESCO, 1998), while the gross enrolment rates at secondary education were 64% for men; 65% for women in 1990-95 (UNICEF, 1998). In 1985-1992, the average crude completion rates at primary education were 82.9% for women; 75.2% for men. As seen in the table below, the completion rate of ethnic Fijians is lower than that of Indo-Fijians (UN, 1997).

Crude Completion Rates for Primary Education by Major Ethnic Group and Sex in 1985-1992 (%)

Ethnic Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Ethnic Fijians	75.6	75.2	80.2
Indo Fijians	82.1	79.3	85.2
All Ethnic Group	79.1	75.2	82.9

( Source: Ministry of Education, Annual Report, UN, 1997 )

**【 Vocational and Higher Education 】**

The gender gap emerges after secondary education. In 1992, women comprised only about 26% of total enrolment at the Fiji Institute of Technology (UN, 1997). Besides the low participation level, women tend to be concentrated in traditional female areas of study, such as business/secretarial courses and Hotel and catering, while men are likely to major in the other courses. The enrolment of women in non-traditional areas such as engineering and maritime training courses is low (UN, 1997). In 1994, there were 302 Fijian Government sponsored students at the University of the South Pacific, 144 of whom, or about 48%, were women (UN, 1997).

Enrolment at the Fiji Institute of Technology by Course Type and Sex: 1992

Course Type	Both Sexes (person)	Male (person)	Female (person)	Percentage of female (%)
Automotive engineering	563	559	4	0.7
Building/civil engineering	540	519	21	3.9
Business/secretarial	1130	267	863	76.4
Electrical engineering	724	704	20	2.8
General studies	136	87	49	36.0
Hotel and catering	261	114	147	56.3
Maritime studies	405	405	0	0
Mechanical engineering	515	509	6	1.2
Printing	90	61	29	32.2
All courses	4364	3225	1139	26.1

( Source: Ministry of Education, Annual Reports, cited in UN, 1997 )

**【 Religious Influence 】**

The major religions are Methodist, Catholic, Anglican, Muslim, and Hindu. In the late 1950s, the Fiji Government began to take over many of the church schools, although the Muslim and Hindus still continue to administer and run their own schools. Christian, Muslim and Hindu schools tend to be more conservative in the types of uniform their students wear, and also include religious studies into the regular school curriculum. A number of schools administered by Chinese committees were established in the 1960s. All the curriculum at all levels of education are set up by the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education (JICA, 1998).

The government has developed a long-standing and comprehensive partnership between the government, local communities, and NGOs for the delivery of education. The government provides for the training and salaries of teachers who are hired under civil service rules and assigned to both community and government-run schools. Local communities and NGOs own and directly manage schools, and supplement the provision by the government (JICA, 1998).

#### **【Adult Literacy Non-Formal Education】**

The Ministry of Education concentrates its efforts on educating the young at schools and school dropouts, assisting vocational and technical institutions, and colleges. The majors are agriculture, nursing, dentistry, health and medicine. The Ministry also supports the scholarship sections of the Fijian Affairs Board for the ethnic Fijian and Rotuman students, and the Department of Multi-Ethnic Affairs for other ethnic minority groups for students who want to join the institutions (JICA, 1998).

Informal adult education is carried out through other Government ministries such as the Ministry for Women, Ministry for Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Ministry of Fijian Affairs. These ministries have made financial assistance on informal education initiated by NGOs. For example, field officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry train people in rural areas, and recommend participants to their departments to attend national training workshops (JICA, 1998).

The Ministry of Youth has staff members in most of the centers, and they concentrate on development programs for youth in villages and settlements. They support the work of youth organizations by providing funds, resource people and resource material for workshops and meetings. The Ministry has a National Youth Training Camp which manages training courses in agriculture, leadership, vocational skills, business management and home economics for young schools. In addition, it has a Non-formal Education Program for adults and the community at large through seminars and workshops.

### 3-2 Health

#### Health

- As a result of expanding health service to women and children in the 1980s to 1990s, the maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased.
- Major causes of female in-patient morbidity are 37.9% for complications of pregnancy; 7.7% for diseases of the genital organs.
- Total fertility rates were 4.1 persons for ethnic Fijians, and 2.8 persons for Indo-Fijian.
- Fertility rate has decreased, particularly, among Indo-Fijians

#### 【General Situation】

In the 1980s to 1990s, health service to women and children has been expanded. As a result, the maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased, while female life expectancy rate has got higher. In 1993-1997, the average life expectancy increased from 61.4 years old to 70.6 years for men; from 65.2 years old to 74.9 years for women. In 1996, the infant mortality rate for children under one year old was 18 persons per 1,000, while the rate for those under 5 years old was 25 persons. These rates are lower than the average rates in other Pacific countries (UNICEF, 1998)

#### 【Women's Health】

As indicated below, major causes of female in-patient morbidity are 37.9% for complications of pregnancy; 7.7% for diseases of the genital organs (Ministry of Health, cited in UN, 1998). The change of life style led to increasing non-communicable diseases and diabetes, particularly, this tendency is seen in women. Compared to men, women tend to suffer more disproportionately from neoplasm both malignant and benign and diseases of the genito-urinary system. In the control of non-communicable diseases, High-risk Foot Care Clinics for diabetics have been established and working committees have been set up on care of the elderly, cancer prevention and control, vector-borne disease management and emergency services (JICA, 1998).

In 1996, the National Center for Health Promotion was established under the Fiji Trilateral Health Promotion Project funded by Australia, Japan and Fiji in order to reinforce health education by the Ministry of Health. The center focuses on diseases of lifestyles and affluence which are now the main causes of morbidity and mortality (JICA, 1998).

### Major Causes of Female in-patient Morbidity in 1990

Major causes	Number of cases	% of total
Complications of pregnancy	7,889	37.9
Diseases of genital organs	1,598	7.7
Pneumonia	509	2.4
Bronchitis, emphysema, asthma	617	3.0
Intestinal infections	556	2.7
Skin/subcutaneous infections	475	2.3
Diabetes mellitus	687	3.3
Malignant neoplasms	384	1.8
Benign neoplasms	276	1.3
Ischaemi heart disease	300	1.4
Other heart disease	23	2.0
Cerebrovascular disease	201	1.0
Other	6,895	33.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,810</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Ministry of Health, cited in UN, Annual Report, 1997)

#### 【Maternal Mortality Rate】

The maternal mortality rate per 100,000 decreased from 119 persons in 1976 to 27 persons in 1990 (JICA, 1998). The reasons are that : 1) proportion of pregnant women who receive antenatal care increases (6.9 time for the average attendance of ethnic Fijian women, 7.5 times for Indo-Fijian women), 2) almost all births are attended by trained medical personnel (96%), and 3) the proportion of deliveries taking place in medical institutions or under the care of district nurses increases from 96.4% in 1982 to 98.3% in 1990(Ministry of Health, cited in UN, 1997).

#### 【Female Staff of the Ministry of Health】

The Ministry of Health has 2,750 staff, 74% of whom are women. Most female staff are nurse, 95% of whom are female. On the other hand, female medical and dental doctors are only 35% of total. In administrative grades, including executive, 40% are female, but the percentage is higher for lower grades: 14% of personnel at executive level are female. 22 women are at higher administrative, 46 at middle administrative and 56 at lower administrative (Public Service Commission, cited in JICA, 1998).

#### 【Women's Organizations in Rural Communities】

In order to improve quality of living-condition for women and their families in rural areas, the Soqosoqo Vakamurama was established. In the last 5 years, this organization has been responsible for visiting rural villages and settlements to share birth control ideas with members of each community. They

are supported financially by the UNFPA (JICA, 1998).

### 【HIV/AIDS/STD】

20 HIV infections were reported (16 persons for men, 4 persons for women) until now. The ages of the infected range from 20 to 29 years old except 4 cases. The common mode of transmission is heterosexual (9 cases), with other modes being homosexual (7 cases), blood products (3 cases), mother to infant (1 case) (Ministry of Health, Ministry for Education, cited in DWC, 1994)

### 【Family Planning】

Total fertility rates were 4.1 persons for ethnic Fijians, and 2.8 persons for Indo-Fijians in 1986. The rates are likely to decline particularly among Indo-Fijian women (2.8 persons in 1993) due to the implementation family planning (JICA, 1998). The percentage of contraceptive use for Indo-Fijian women is higher than that of ethnic Fijians. A half of Indo-Fijian women use sterilization, and IUD, pill, and followed by condom (Ministry of Health 1990, DWC, 1994). The percentage distribution of family planning acceptors categorized by contraceptive method in 1982-1990 is as follows (Ministry of Health, 1990, UN, 1997).

Percentage Distribution of Family Planning Acceptors Categorized  
by Contraceptive Method in 1982-1990 (%)

Methods	%
Pill	12.4
IUD	17.6
Condom	5.8
Injection	8.0
Female sterilization	52.4
Total	100

(Source: Ministry of Health, 1990, cited in UN, 1997)

#### Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- Agriculture, the most important sector in Fiji, accounts for about 22% of GDP, for about 70% of export revenue, and for 37 % of working population.
- In Fijian society, being patriarchal, all decision-making in life such as land use, household sites, fishing grounds, family activities, marriage, death and birth rites, is done by men.
- All Fijian girls reaching 16, automatically become members of the "Soqosoquo Vakamarama" which was formed in the 1920s to raise the quality of living-condition of families in villages.

#### 【General Situation】

Total cultivated acreage in Fiji is 18,000ha, 83% of which is owned by ethnic Fijians. The rest is government-owned land or freehold land. The native land which can not be sold becomes obstacle to agricultural development (Kokusai Kyouryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997).

Agriculture including subsistence farming, the most important sector in Fiji, accounts for about 22% of GDP, for about 70% of export revenue, and for 37 % of working population (UN, 1997). Sugar cane is the largest cash crop followed by coconuts and ginger. Various kinds of vegetables and fruits production are abundant due to fertile land and sufficient water. Maize is produced for domestic consumption. In addition, various kinds of root vegetables are necessary nutrition for people (Kokusai Kyouryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997).

#### 【Informal Sector】

Women play a significant role, particularly, in subsistence farming in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Women engaged in the informal sector in agricultural sector comprise 22% of total female working population; 59% of them. The number of female self-employed engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors is larger than that of male self-employed (Bureau of Statistics Household Economic Activity Survey-1989-1990, cited in JICA, 1998). The average female income per month is about Fiji \$ 335. The income for women engaged in agriculture is the highest, which is 61% of men's income. On the other hand, the income for men engaged in fisheries is much higher than that of women, which is only 4% of men's income (JICA, 1998).



Percentage of Female Employment Categorized by Sectors  
(Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing) and Types of Employment 1989-1990(%)

Sector	Agriculture	Forestry	Fisheries	Total
% of women	21.9	21.5	58.5	24.8
Self-employed (women)	61.4	75.9	87.3	68.5
Unpaid(women)	18.4	20.8	12.2	17.5
Paid(women)	20.3	3.3	0.6	14.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Source: Bureau of Statistics Household Economic Activity Survey-1989-1990,  
cited in Department for Women and Culture, 1994)

### 【Extension Activities and Training for Women】

Out of total 298 extension officers employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, only 6% are women. There are no women Fisheries Department extension officers, and 6% of animal health extension officers are women, and 9% in the crops sector (JICA, 1998).

### 【Land Ownership and Rural Women】

Fijians own 83% of the land, recognized as "native" land called "mataqali", which is the Fijian land-owning unit made up of families descendent from a common ancestor. This native land is prohibited for buying and selling (Kokusai Kyouryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997). There are 2 kinds of native land: reserve and non-reserve. Native reserve can be leased only to Fijians, while non-reserve can be leased to persons of any race. All Fijian-owned land is registered in and regulated through the Native Land Trust Board (NLTB) whose head office is in Suva. Any lease for agriculture and logging has to have the consensus of the NLTB and 20 members of the mataqali concerned (JICA, 1998).

In 1966, the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) extended the period for which native land can be leased from 10 to 30 years. In 1997, the 30-year leases began coming up for renewal, and Fiji's 23,000 Indian sugarcane farmers have been apprehensive about the new terms they will receive. A special parliamentary committee on ALTA was appointed during 1997 and has been meeting regularly to find ways of meeting the needs of those whose lives will be affected by non-renewal of leases (JICA, 1998).

Fijians belong to a patriarchal society, as seen in the cases that most decision-making in terms of land use, household sites, fishing grounds, family activities, marriage, death and birth rate is done by men. Elder women or women in higher positions are consulted when major decisions concerning the family and community are to be made (JICA, 1998).

Land ownership and fishing rights are part of the traditional system for Fijians. All Fijians,

regardless of sex, are born into a land-owning unit "mataqali". All Fijians have the right to use the land, but they can not control or own land as individuals. Women can lease land within the mataqali system. While men traditionally till the land and tend the gardens, women are likely to be involved in subsistence farming and weeding uprooting food crops such as taro or cassava. Recently, many families are growing extra root crops to earn money and women are responsible for bringing crops into towns and cities to sell them (JICA, 1998).

Indo-Fijian women have access to the land but do not have control over land. Women are involved in ploughing, seeding, harvesting, threshing, bagging and selling food crops or vegetables. In addition women are responsible for the vegetable garden, poultry and animals farming. Other ethnic groups also have access to land, but do not have control over land. Most of freehold land owned by Europeans has been sold to Indians, and Chinese. Those rural women are also engaged in tilling the land, growing vegetables, and looking after the animals. Some Chinese families own big vegetable and cattle farms and piggeries. These are sold both locally and overseas. Women are often the sellers of vegetables in the markets around the country (JICA, 1998).

#### **【Activities of Women Organizations in Rural Communities】**

All Fijian girls reaching 16, automatically become members of the "Soqosoquo Vakamarama" which was formed in the 1920s to raise the quality of living-condition of families in villages. Each church or religion organizes its own women's group such as the Methodist Women's Fellowship, the Zanana Muslim League, and the Hindu Women's Society. Women's groups in rural areas are usually formed for women's and family programs, and these would include fundraising for children's school fees, books and lunches, and for religious activities (JICA, 1998).

#### **【Women and Fishing】**

Fishery is an important sector for those in coastal and inland river areas in Fiji. As fisheries become larger scale (ex. artisanal, commercial and industrial) the involvement of women is modified to specific tasks within the catching, processing and marketing sectors. This leads to reduction of women's influence and control over the decision making process on factors that may affect them within the industry. According to a 1994 survey of the subsistence fishery, subsistence catch covers almost one-third of household food expenditure in fishing households (JICA, 1998, UN, 1997).

Economic Activities

- In spite of women's contribution to economic activities, women's labor participation rate is one-fourth of men's rate by other statistics data due to unrecognized women's labor force.
- Garment industry occupies Fiji \$ 185 million in total export revenue in 1996, which is mainly made up of women's low wage.
- Men and women have equal access to credit from the Fiji Development Bank, but women do not seek credit as often as men do.

**【General Situation】**

The real labor participation rates between men and women over 15 years old are nearly equal. However, women's labor participation rate is one-fourth of men's rate by other statistics data, which results from unrecognized women's contribution to economic activities (DWC, 1994). The labor participation rates for both men and women differ by 1) age, 2) region (urban and rural areas), and 3) ethnic group. Recently, women's unemployment rate is likely to increase, which is getting serious for the age groups of 15-19 and 20-24. The rate in urban area (16.9%) is higher than that in rural area (13.5%). Four-fifth of workers have cash income, whose rate for Indo-Fijian women (91.5%) is higher than income of ethnic Fijians (73.9%) (UN, 1997).

Recently, women's labor participation rate has increased, due to 1) the establishment of Tax Free Manufacturing Special Zone in the 1980s, 2) the growth of service sector, 3) the increase of working participation in formal sector, and 4) the favorable employment policy for women (UN, 1997).

**【Employment Situation】**

The labor force in the informal sector comprised about 58% of total labor force in 1996 compared to 36% in the formal sector and 6% in unemployment. This large informal sector is made up of mainly self-employed in very small enterprises outside any fixed working place and the agricultural sector comprising self-employed agricultural workers and seasonally employed wage workers. In 1990-1996, the government generated additional 25,000 jobs in the formal sector including both the public and private sectors. As a result, the informal and agricultural sectors absorbed about 11,600 persons from the labor force over the same 6-year period (JICA, 1998).

## 【Garment Workers】

In 1987, the Tax Free Factory Scheme was introduced in order to promote the growth of manufacturing, which is viewed as a key issue in the restructuring of the economy. (JICA, 1998). The garment industry accounts for Fiji \$ 185 millions in total export revenue, and relies on a continuous and plentiful supply of cheap female labor women. The minimum wage guidelines for the garment industry are set at Fiji \$ 0.72 cents per hour for trainees and Fiji\$0.94 cents per hour when the training period ends. The majority of workers in the industry earn between Fiji \$30 and Fiji \$ 40 per week. Considering that fact that people on the poverty line need Fiji \$ 85 per week., these figures reveal how precarious the workers' survival is (Christy Harrington's Research1993-1996, cited in JICA, 1998).

## 【Support for Business and Access to Micro Credit】

Men and women have equal access to credit from the Fiji Development Bank, but women do not seek credit as often as men do. The reasons are : 1) ignorance of the availability of the credit scheme, 2) timidity and lack of confidence to approach the bank, and 3) lack of resources to provide as collateral and deposits (the minimum loan value is Fiji \$ 1,000 with a deposit requirement of 20 %) (JICA, 1998). Regarding micro-credit, there are programs and schemes as follows (UNDP, 1997, cited in JICA, 1998),

### -Women's Social and Economic Development Programme

It is funded by NZODA, targeting poor rural and urban women.

### -New Zealand Loans Scheme

It is funded by the Fijian Development Bank and NZODA to resolve lack of resource, targeting poor rural and urban women. It offers a lower interest rate on loans up to Fiji \$ 10,000.

### -Thrift & Credit Coop Loan Scheme

It is implemented by the Department of Cooperatives, targeting members of the cooperatives since the late 1960s

### -Fiji Credit Union League

It is funded by members targeting individual sugar cane farmers and cooperatives.

### -Small-Scale Entrepreneur Equity Scheme

It was started by the Ministry of Fijian Affairs in 1995, and is funded by members.

The Department of Commerce regularly offers "small business" management courses as does the Department of Cooperatives. These courses are offered to women and many villages send young women to attend. The Fiji Trade and Investment Board has a regular business management course for women managers, and recently introduced an MBA course (JICA,1998).

#### 4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Title	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Content
<b>&lt;General&gt;</b>				
Women in Development	Ministry for Women & Culture (MWC)	AusAID	Since 1993	Support for development projects
Gender awareness/analysis	MWC	UNDP	1998/99	Support for gender mainstreaming program.
Institutional Strengthening	MWC	AusAID	1998/99	Staff training, etc.
Women In Politics	Fiji WIP/NCW Fiji	Asia F'dation NZODA AusAID NZODA NZODA	1994-1995 1995-1996 1995-1996 1995-1996 1997-1998 1998-1999	Political awareness for women – local govt. and national elections; voters education; campaign strategies for women
Women in Politics	Fiji Methodist Women	UNIFEM	June 1998	Political awareness
Institutional strengthening	NCW of Fiji	NZODA	1996-1998	Organisation support
Women's programme	NCW of Fiji	MWC	1997-1998	Support women's programme
Elimination of violence against women & children	Women's Crisis Centre	AusAID Canada Fund)	1990-1994 1994-1999	Anti violence programme "
		(Oxfam NZ ) NZODA) UNIFEM	1992-1996 1998	Anti- violence programme
Research on women & violence	Women's Crisis Centre	NZODA and Asia F'dation	1992-1998	Anti- violence programme & Research
Capacity Building	YWCA of Fiji	Canada Fund AusAID	1994 1997	Equipment for rural program centres
Young women's programme	YWCA of Fiji	MWC and NZODA	1997 and 1998	Support YWCA prog's for young women
Legal Literacy	RRRT	British Aid	1995-1998	Women's awareness
Governance	Fiji WIP/NCW Fiji	British Aid	1998	Women's training programme
<b>&lt;Health&gt;</b>				
Health/Population Project	Ministry for Women	UNFPA	On-going	Health programme
Young women's programme	NCW Fiji	Japanese Embassy and Min.Health	1998	Young women's health programme
<b>&lt;Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining and Manufacturing&gt;</b>				
WOSED	MWC	NZODA	Since 1993 – on-going	Improvement of access by women to micro-credit funds

## 5. WID/Gender Information Sources

### 5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

#### 【Governmental Organization】

Name	Activities	Contact Address
(a) Ministry of Women: - Gender Desk: - Information -Ms Tupou Vere.	WOSED, 1993 on; Statistical Profile project – 1994 Annual Reports	PO Box 14068, Suva; Tel: 312 199 Fax: 303 829
(b) Ministry for Health: -		Tel. 306177 Fax: 306 163
(c) Ministry of Education - For release of latest education stats, contact the Permanent Sec.; - For annual reports contact, Research & Development Division.		Tel: 314 477 Fax: 303 511
Ministry of Agriculture:		Tel. 384 233

#### 【NGO】

Name	Activities	Contact Address
Soqosoqo Vakamarama:	Family Planning & Family Health – funded by UNFPA: 1992 to 1996;	Tel. 381 408

#### 【Consultant】

Name	Activities	Contact Address
UNDP Consultant	UNDP Project on PICs informal sector	UNDP Suva Office, Tel: 312 500; Fax: 301 718
Marine Affairs Programme US	Women & Fisheries Network project; Marine Affairs Programme, USP	USP Tel: 313 900

## 5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender

### 【Women in General】

Name	Author	Year	Publisher
Vaka I Taukei: A Fijian Way of Life. USP, Suva, Fiji.	Ravuvu, A.	1983.	USP Library
Girmit: A Centenary Anthology 1879-1979, Ministry of Information, Suva, Fiji	Various authors	1979	USP Library
South Pacific Handbook, Moon Publications, Chico, California.	Stanley, David	1996	USP Library
Pacific Island Year Book, Fiji Times, Suva, Fiji	Douglas, Norman & Ngaire (editors)	1994	USP Library
Communalism & the Challenge of Fiji Indian Unity, 1920-1947. Ann Arbor, Michigan; University Microfilms Int.	Daley, Kevin	1997	USP Library
Girmitiyas: The Origins of the Fiji Indians. ANU Printing Service.	Lal, Brij V.	1983	USP Library



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- Department for Women & Culture(DWC), 1994  
*Women of Fiji: A Statistical Gender Profile*, Government Printer, Suva, Fiji.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU), 1998  
*Country Profile 1997-98: Fiji*
- Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA), 1996  
*Country Report for Seminar for Officers of Women's Education*
- Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA), 1998  
*Profile Study on Women in Development in Fiji*
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MFAJ), 1998  
*Fiji*, <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/world/kankei/t-fiji.html>
- United Nations (UN), 1997  
*Women in Fiji: A Country Profile*, Economic and Social Commission For Asian and The Pacific, Statistical Profiles, UN, NY
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) , 1998  
*The State of The World's Children 1998*
- United Nations Development Planning (UNDP), 1998  
*Human Development Report 1998*
- United Nations Education Science Organisation (UNESCO), 1998  
*World Education Report* , UNESCO Publishing
- World Bank, 1997  
*World Development Report 1997*
- World Bank, 1998  
*World Development Report 1998*  
(In Japanese)
- Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997  
*Fiji*
- < References used by Local Consultant >
- Bidesi, V.R. 1995  
Changes to Women's roles in fisheries development in Fiji. in *Fishing for Answers. Women and Fisheries in the Pacific Islands*, The Women and Fisheries Network, Suva, Fiji.
- Bidesi, V.R. 1997  
The dilemma in Coastal Fisheries Management in Fiji. In. *SPC Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin* SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- Fiji Government. 1991  
*1990-1991 National Household Income & Expenditure Survey*. Government Statistician, Suva, Fiji.
- Ministry of National Planning. 1997  
*Development Strategy for Fiji: Policies and Programmes for Sustainable Growth*. Government Printer, Suva, Fiji.

- Ministry of Education, 1994, 1995, 1996  
*Annual Reports*, Government Printer, Suva, Fiji.
- Ministry of Health, 1994, 1995, 1996  
*Annual Reports*, Government Printer, Suva, Fiji.
- Rawlinson, N.J.F., Milton, D.A., Blaber, S.M., & Sharma S.P, 1994  
*A survey of the subsistence and artisanal fisheries in rural areas of Viti Levu*  
ACIAR Monograph 35.
- South Pacific Commission. 1994  
*Pacific Platform for Action: Rethinking Sustainable Development for Pacific Women*  
*towards the Year 2000*, SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- UNDP/Fiji Government. 1997  
*Fiji Poverty Report*. UNDP & Fiji Government, April 1997.
- United Nations. 1997  
*Sustaining Livelihoods: Promoting Informal Sector Growth in Pacific Island Countries*.  
UNDP Suva Office, Suva.

## 7. Definition

### <Technical Terms>

#### Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social and cultural role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender varies from place to place, time to time, according to social norm and sense of values.

#### Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individuals or family firms that are not listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition by ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping. Workers of the Informal Sector often have no jobs but unstable and less-paid jobs.

#### WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into every development process, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

#### Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to have safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom of choice on whether, when and how many children to deliver.

#### National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equality of men and women. It also promotes gender equal policies among other ministries. It plans and implements the national policies for gender equality.

#### Empowerment

To develop political, economic and social abilities of an individual or a group of individuals.

#### Affirmative action/Positive action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the gap between the discriminated group(s) and other group(s), when the discriminated have been placed in extremely unequal conditions to other group(s).

#### Access and control

"Access" means to be able to use resources(land, labor, fund, etc.) and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. "Control" means a right to manage resources and services or to own them.

#### Reproductive activity

Activity to reproduce next generation including bearing and rearing children, and to reproduce labor force by sustaining daily life, such as, washing and cooking for the family

#### <Indicators>

##### Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

##### Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of inequal income distribution ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1means perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

##### Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

##### Total fertility rate

The average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime, if she were to bear children at teach age in accord with prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

##### Under-one mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly on year of age times, 1,000.

##### Under-five mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under five years of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age times, 1,000.

Maternal mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel

The percentage of births attended by physicians, nurses, midwives, trained primary health care workers or trained traditional birth attendants.

Percentage of infants with low birth weight

The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams.

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate

The percentage of all cases of diarrhoea in children under age five treated with oral rehydration salts or an appropriate household solution.

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school

The gross enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education-whether or not they belong in the relevant age group for that level-as a percentage of the population in the relevant age group for that level. The net enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education who belong in the relevant age group, as a percentage of the population in that age group.