

observant community organizers or facilitators believe that women can do more, need and want to do more for the development of their community.

The need to organize women must be illuminated under the light of both these concerns. Observations and deep reflections on the conditions of most existing community organizations, whether traditional or more progressive ones, reveal an unconscious male orientation as indicated by the evident visibility of male participation, leadership, decision-making and, more generally, as revealed by the organizations' processes or manner of conducting their affairs.

Women have less participation because of reproductive duties and burdens that literally tie them to the home. They are not elected into leadership positions or they inhibit themselves from such positions mainly because of social expectations and beliefs regarding women's primary role and responsibility to the family, their private rather than public life. They are to have no role or a limited role in public life and are to be under the guidance and protection of men, their husbands or fathers. An extension of these views is that men and most women believe that women are slow decision-makers, i.e. women cannot make up their minds on time. They are more emotional and will not be effective in handling conflicts that might be raised in the organization. Women are not comfortable with power.



*Women can do more, need and want to do more for the development of their community.*