

Gloria Kumagai (Project Director). *America's Women of Color: Integrating Cultural Diversity into Non-Sex-Biased Curricula*. (Newton, MA: Women's Educational Equity Act Publishing Center, 1982)

Five filmstrips, five tapes, five user's guides, four manuals, \$56.00. Individual prices as follows: *Teacher-Training Manual*, \$7.25; *Elementary Curriculum Guide*, \$6.75; *Secondary Curriculum Guide*, \$5.75; *Minority Women: An Annotated Bibliography*, \$4.00; *America's Women of Color* (filmstrip, tape and guide), \$7.25; *American Indian Women* (filmstrip, tape and guide), \$5.75; *Asian American Women* (filmstrip, tape and guide), \$6.25; *La Mujer Hispana: Mito y Realidad* (filmstrip, tape and guide), \$6.50; *Not About to Be Ignored* (filmstrip, tape and guide), \$6.50.

Order from: Educational Development Center, 55 Chapel Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02160

This is an extensive project with multiple uses for the classroom teacher or director of a multi-cultural, non-sexist teaching program. Kumagai has drawn on the resources of a number of persons to help write, test, and evaluate the materials included.

The focus of this project is on America's women of color—American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and black Americans. The fifth section compares and contrasts these groups with white women, demonstrating similar goals and issues and showing where the groups differ in history, culture, and perspectives.

The users' guides which accompany each tape/filmstrip program include the script, additional resources, and sample lesson plans. Each program deals with the historical background of the group in America and brings the activities into the present with contemporary readings and examples. The sample lesson plans cover all disciplines, providing exercises appropriate for math, art, music, sociology, literature, history, and other classes. Students using the exercises in the math lessons, for example, will become familiar with the evaluation of statistics, graphs, and budgeting. Sensitive issues such as sterilization of American Indian women are included along with appropriate reading materials and discussion questions.

Perhaps the weakest element is the *Elementary Curriculum Guide* because of some of the assumptions implicit in the lesson plans. For instance, several plans ask the student to list "similarities and differences between *ourselves*" (italics mine) and Asian American, black American, and American Indian females. The assumption here seems to be that the lessons are for white children. Another question asks the students if they know any minority women. Such exercises

might be appropriate for an all-white classroom, but there are fewer and fewer of such classrooms around. Obviously, teachers will have to make appropriate use of the material for their particular classrooms.

One of the strongest statements made in the series is in the *Secondary Curriculum Guide*. In her essay, Suzanne Perry emphasizes the power of language: "language is the medium through which we transmit culture." If we could get students to understand this concept, we would be on the way to helping them understand themselves, their own use of language to distort and stereotype, and the way language molds our perceptions of society.

The flexibility and reasonable cost of this series make it a wise choice for school districts. Each filmstrip is short enough to use in a single class period and still allow time for discussion, and each guide provides a sufficient number of activities for varying skill levels and diverse subjects. The bibliography includes basic sources for librarians who wish to expand their multi-cultural holdings.

The series would also be excellent for teacher training programs. There is enough information here to use both the visual and written media as models for students to develop their own materials for the classroom, or to modify the lessons to make them useful in a variety of settings. Students could take further advantage of these materials by using them as a foundation for preparing additional bibliographies and lessons plans.

—Gretchen M. Bataille  
Iowa State University

Arthur Dong (Producer). *Sewing Woman*. 16mm film, 15 minutes, black and white, rental \$30.00 per showing, \$45.00 two showings/one day; purchase \$225.00, video (all formats) \$195.00. Deepfocus Productions, 1548 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123 (415-776-9049).

Married at thirteen years of age to an unknown husband, and pregnant two months later! How could her parents allow such a horror to happen? Zem Ping Dong would soon understand the Chinese way: to accept fate and do what must be done, regardless of the cost.

To the Euroamerican, this attitude seems reprehensible, but to many Asians it is a way of life. *Sewing Woman* shows the Chinese way through the story of Zem Ping Dong, an immigrant woman. Disowning