

SPEAK

... is a publication mainly for women. It deals with topics of interest to all people we hope, but especially those which are useful and interesting to women. So, SPEAK is about women:- their work in factories, homes and com-

munities; their lives and problems, including their health, transport, housing, etc. Many of these problems apply to all people, but we are interested in the particular way they affect women, and the way in which women

can and do respond to them. One way of raising these issues is through writing. We want this publication to reach women, and express their problems, thoughts and issues.

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A WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY WOMEN WAS HELD OVER THE WEEKEND OF THE 17 AND 18 APRIL, 1982. ITS MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO LOOK AT THE NEED TO ORGANISE WOMEN AND HOW TO GO ABOUT THIS. ABOUT 50 WOMEN FROM AROUND DURBAN WERE PRESENT. SOME BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN WITH THEM. MOST PEOPLE STAYED OVERNIGHT.

On Saturday the programme started with an ice-breaking session. Then a paper was read and a slide tape programme shown. Both of these were followed by discussion.

On Sunday discussion groups were organised. Each time we broke up into small groups, each group had a co-ordinator for that particular discussion. These small groups made it possible for everybody to share their ideas, and learn from one another. The weekend closed with an evaluation of the workshop.



THE ICE-BREAKING SESSION

What do you best enjoy doing?
What do you like most about yourself?
What do you do?
What is your favourite colour?

With much laughing and joking people briefly discussed questions such as these. In this way, everybody met one another in a very short time. A friendly and relaxed spirit was set for the weekend!



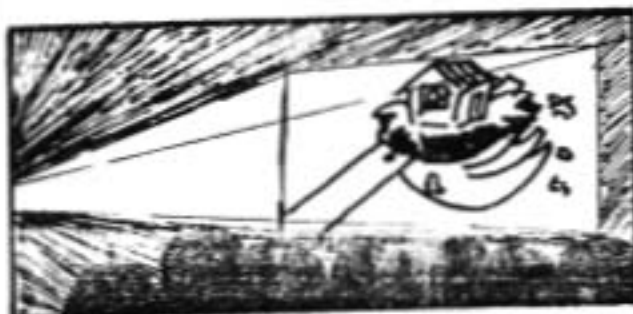
THE PAPER: MRS APRILS LIFE

A short paper was read to the group. It was about a day in the life of a working woman. It described the problems and frustrations of being a wife, mother and factory worker.

We then broke up into small groups to discuss our own and other women's problems. In this way there was a chance for everybody to speak and share ideas.

We found that there are common problems facing women, like discrimination in many ways at

work. We talked about how these problems are not easy to overcome, because women are kept fully occupied both at home and at work. There is little time for anything else.



SLIDE-TAPE SHOW

The slide-tape show took us into a South American community who go through the same kinds of daily frustrations most of us in South Africa experience. We saw the problems of cramped living conditions, bad transport, low wages and lack of child care centers. We saw the familiar situation of bosses' only interest being profit and ignoring workers' problems. We also saw how problems were overcome by all people getting together and organising to change things. In the discussions which followed people spoke about our need to do the same thing. The slide-tape show is available from Diakonia (312609).

In the evening we relaxed and enjoyed ourselves. We had the chance to learn more about each other and share experiences.

LEARNING ABOUT AREAS

We broke up into groups again. Each group had a co-ordinator who discussed the area from which she came and the most serious problems the people faced there. This gave others a chance to hear about the conditions in various parts of Durban itself. People talked of the need to work together to change these conditions. The co-ordinators reported back to the group at large. This gave everyone the opportunity to hear something about everyone else's area.

EVALUATION

We all had the opportunity to comment on the weekend. It was hoped that people would leave the workshop with new energy to continue organising in their areas or begin to participate in doing so. We had the chance to make old friendships grow and develop new ones.

TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR AIMS AS SET OUT IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THIS NEWSLETTER, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO :-

- LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT;
- SEND IN ARTICLES ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA;
- SEND US ANY STORIES, PICTURES OR POEMS THAT YOU AND OTHER WOMEN WRITE OR LIKE.

SEND THEM TO : **SPEAK COLLECTIVE**
76 WALMER AVENUE,
DURBAN.