

Some Women Don't Work? Not True, Says Sociologist

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By Lil Thompson

Staff Reporter

The statement that "some women work and some women don't" isn't true, said Dr. Susan Ostrander.

"ALL women work," she emphasized, whether they are employed outside the home for pay or inside the home without pay.

In both situations women have economic problems which Dr. Ostrander will take about at noon Monday at the YWCA on Glade Street.

Dr. Ostrander, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Wake Forest University, will be the first speaker for the YWCA-sponsored Contemporary Woman's Series to be held on seven consecutive Mondays from noon to 1 p.m.

She will talk about "Women, Money and Work: The Reality and the Future."

During a telephone interview, Dr. Ostrander said that all women — whether they're professionals, blue collar workers, black or white — have economic concerns in common.

She gave as an example the fact that no matter how much education a woman has or what color she is, statistics show that "she is likely to get paid a lot less than a man" with similar education and training.

The median difference: Women are paid 60 percent of what men are paid, but this

can vary. Not every woman, Dr. Ostrander said, is paid less than a man with comparable experience.

She also said that almost one-half the women employed outside the home have no other source of income. And married women who work don't usually work for luxuries; their salaries often make the dif-

ference between adequate and inadequate standards of living for their families.

But, Dr. Ostrander said, "No matter what we do there is sex discrimination." And the only way for women to fight this is to act collectively. It cannot be done individually.

She will suggest in her talk a way in which women's groups

in a community like Winston-Salem can get together to act. Such action has worked in other cities, she said.

In Winston-Salem, groups like NOW, the League of Women Voters and others working on women's issues might sit down in an all-day organized session and work toward agreed-upon goals in a coordinated way.

One possible goal could be to teach women to raise funds for organizational efforts such as setting up a woman's clinic.

Dr. Ostrander said that the goal of equal pay for equal work — upon which almost everyone agrees — would be difficult for a community group to take on. It needs to be tackled nationally.

Women don't get a chance to do equal work, she said. Most women are clerical workers or gray-collar workers (waitresses, domestics and the like.)

The women's movement has an image of being only for white middle-class professional women, Dr. Ostrander said. She doesn't believe this is true. But those women who are middle-class professionals need to make it clear that they can't change the situation unless they find ways of working with women in all kinds of jobs.

Dr. Ostrander's talk will be free. Those attending may bring a sandwich or call the YWCA to make reservations for lunch, which will cost \$2.50.



Staff Photo by Charlie Buchanan

Dr. Susan Ostrander: Women must work together.