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The SHARE Institute Newsletter- Summer 2001  
(Social, Health, Assessment, Research, & Education)

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A quarterly newsletter written for The SHARE Institute Community.

Feel free to share this newsletter by forwarding it to those who may be interested in learning about making a positive difference in people's lives. We are proud to include you as part of our community and plan on incorporating you in future SHARE Institute mailings. We respect the privacy of your email address and do not share such information with any other organizations. If you wish to be taken off the mailing list, contact [sstolba@theshareinstitute.org](mailto:sstolba@theshareinstitute.org).

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Greetings From The SHARE Institute President

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Welcome to the third issue of the SHARE Institute's electronic newsletter. We are pleased to share with you some of our work and humble efforts to empower women in different parts of the world. The SHARE Institute's community continues to grow and our work team is expanding daily. The last three months have been very busy for the Institute's staff. Several proposals were submitted to organizations for funding, a heavy public speaking schedule has been set for the Fall 2001, and the logistics of SHARE's training activities continue to occupy all of us.

On the personal front, Anita Shankar, a SHARE Institute Associate, whom many of you in Nigeria know very well, got married to Mr. George Wolf. This joyous event was celebrated in Sacramento on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Anita and George. The SHARE Institute staff would like to wish the newly wed couple the best.

Ms. Elizabeth Torrano, a SHARE Institute associate, became a full-time biology instructor at American River College. Many of you know Liz as the creator of the Fund-Raising Cards of the SHARE Institute. These cards you can send to people for birthdays or special events. Contact The SHARE Institute Office if you would like to send a card to a special friend. Congratulations Liz.

In this issue, we will try something different from the past two issues. As we have done before, we will let you know about our activities. But we will also bring to you some training tips that you might want to try to take your message to the community. I hope you find the tips useful. Have a great summer and let us hear from you. If you have comments, suggestions, or would like to share your talents, feel free to contact me at [sstolba@theshareinstitute.org](mailto:sstolba@theshareinstitute.org) or (916) 966-7482.

Soheir Stolba  
President, The SHARE Institute

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## The Battle Against Female Genital Mutilation

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The war against Female Genital Mutilation presses on with Dr. Soheir Stolba at the front lines. The SHARE Institute and its partner International Health and Development International has been awarded a grant by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Yemen to disseminate information to the public about the harmful health effects of FGM. Also, The Pacific Institute for Women's Health used McAurthur Foundation funds to launch a pilot project in a Northern governorate in Yemen named Hodeidah. The project will involve NGOs in integrating health messages about FGM in their activities. Dr. Stolba has spent June working on launching the start-up phase of the projects listed above. In July, the Hodeidah Project will hold a workshop for health providers and NGOs to prepare for a community mobilization phase.

The Ministry of Health and Population in Yemen issued a law that would forbid licensed health practitioners from performing FGM. The law is symbolic of the government's support and is a crucial step in the fight to end FGM.

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### Institute Activities- Training

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#### Reproductive Health Counseling Skills Workshop for Hospital Outreach Workers (India)

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Thanks to the success of the two workshops on the topic of reproductive health counseling skills held last January, negotiations are currently underway for the SHARE Institute to sponsor a similar training event scheduled to take place in late August of this year.

The Institute sponsored workshops took place in the Sumangali Seva Ashram (SSA) in Bangalore, India. Each workshop was a way to honor the outreach workers for faithfully serving their community, update them on reproductive health issues, and build new skills. Over 60 hospital outreach workers and 10 doctors attended the workshops, which were very well received. The hospital outreach workers are women who live in the slum areas and serve as the link between their community and the hospitals. These committed individuals educate men, women, and children about health issues, serve as social support, and assist people in seeking health care and they are not paid for their services.

The talented trainers of the workshops were Dr. Anuradha and Dr. Komala. Both trainers creatively presented material and involved participants. Susheelamma, of SSA, made sure that all participants were well-fed, had appropriate training supplies, and received a nice certificate of completion. Shaku Shankar, co-founder of the SHARE Institute, and Anita Shankar, associate of the Institute, coordinated the workshop and wish to thank all of the generous donors who made

the workshops possible. The workshop was funded by members of the East Indian community in the US.

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### Speaking Events

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The Global Fund for Women has made a generous donation to the SHARE Institute on June 26, 2001. Dr. Soheir Stolba spoke at a retreat held by the Global Fund for Women on the topic of "Muslim Women in the Middle East."

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### The Mini-Grants Program-Twelve Mini-grants and Growing

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Ever little bit helps, as is demonstrated by the SHARE Institutes mini-grant Program. Our Program is growing and we are very proud of the groups we have funded. So far, we have been able to fund twelve NGOs. Most of the NGOs are in Nigeria, Pakistan, Yemen and Afghanistan. This year, the SHARE Institute has received over twenty applications from various NGOs around the world. Unfortunately, our funding sources were not enough to fund all of the organizations that applied. We would love to fund all applicants. However, the reality is that we raise funding for the various categories we fund. Funding cycles vary from year to year and at different times of the year. All SHARE Institute donations are private and many of the donations are made at the last three months of the year.

Recently, the SHARE Institute has funded the Afghanistan Feminine Association who specializes in teaching girls basic sewing and tailoring skills. The funds were raised by Dr. Stolba who spoke about Afghani women at the University of California Davis. This second mini-grant to the same NGO. The first grant was used to provide vocational training to girls.

Another mini-grant was awarded to The Dhamar Association for the Deaf. This was the second time this organization received funding from The SHARE Institute. The first grant went to prepare deaf students to perform in a play to be attended by the community. The play marked the first time deaf students appeared in a public event. The play was a huge success and some community members donated funds to the association to help educate young deaf children, a marginalized group.

The third mini-grant was given to the Women Organization to Alleviate Poverty in Aden, Yemen. The group has organized computer classes for poor women and needed funding to provide transportation to the computer training classes. The classes will continue for a nine months period.

SHARE continues to award mini-grants through generous private donations by individuals. We would love to fund all proposals; however, our funds are limited. There are many mini-grants pending and we hope to fund more groups in the near future. We anticipate more funds in the

Fall 2001. Let us hear from you. Please remember that our mini-grants do not exceed the amount of \$500.

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News from Collaborating NGOs: Women's Aid Collective (WACOL)

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The Women's Aid Collective in Enugu, Nigeria used the mini-grant to publish the quarterly newsletter "Voice of Adolescents." Adolescents produced a great newsletter. We are very happy with the products of the mini-grant. Thanks WACOL.

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The Tabitha Infirmary Foundation (TTI)

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The power of theater reigns again as the Tabitha Infirmary Foundation in Enugu, Nigeria was funded to implement a drama about HIV/AIDS. Young adolescents performed in rural areas of Enugu State, Nigeria. The mini-grant enabled two groups to travel to four remote areas to perform an AIDS drama in front of a large audience. Speaking in public about AIDS particularly by young people is a crucial public health service. Thanks to the Tabitha Infirmary Foundation for their great work.

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Pakistan/Afghan Educational Opportunities

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The Afghanistan Feminine Association received a second mini-grant to continue doing the great work of providing vocational training for girls in Afghanistan.

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Association for Educating the Deaf

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The Association for Educating the Deaf in Dhamar, Yemen has done wonders for deaf children in the small Yemeni town. SHARE funded a summer camp for deaf children to practice for a show to which the public was invited. The event was the first time for the community to see groups of deaf children perform and receive recognition. The SHARE Institute awarded another mini-grant to purchase hearing aids for two children.

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Sumangali Seva Ashram (SSA)

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One of the activities of the Sumangali Seva Ashram (SSA) is a pre-school for poor children. SSA provides a supportive environment for poor children to learn and to receive nutritious meals throughout the school day. During recess, the children had few toys to play with. Through a mini-grant from the SHARE Institute, SSA purchased durable play equipment. The slide, swing,

and teeter-totter are spaced throughout the playground to encourage many children to use them. The children were delighted with the new equipment. We are pleased to help bring smiles to the faces of children.

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Bibi Maryam High School

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The SHARE Institute continues to hear of the good work in the area of children's education for Afghani children living in refugee camps in Pakistan. The mini-grant provides subsidies to the tuition of poor children.

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Website

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Please take a look at the new additions to our website [www.theshareinstitute.org](http://www.theshareinstitute.org). As our organization grows, the website is a useful tool to keep up-to-date on the people and projects of the SHARE Institute. Let Richard Severino know what you think of the website.

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Internships-Women on the Move

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The SHARE Institute has received numerous inquiries about internships and is proud to welcome the following interns to the Northern California office.

**Laura Rader** is a student of anthropology at Sacramento State University. Laura continues to help us with many important tasks in the office.

**Carly Schenck**, a recent graduate from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in geography, and a special research focus on public health in Southeast Asia. In the last three months, Carly worked with Dr. Stolba on a Pharmacy Survey on Emergency Contraception in California. Carly left to join the University of Australia to work on a Master's degree in public health. Good luck Carly.

**Michelle L. Tompkins** just completed two years of study at American River College where she has spent the last year as Editor-in-Chief for the campus student newspaper, *The Current*. Michelle is planning on studying anthropology and film this fall at Columbia University. Michelle's primary function at the Institute is to assist with the production of the newsletter.

Internships are open to students, professionals, or the general public and will be developed depending on the Intern's interests, skills, time commitment, and the Institute's current projects and activities. Interns can be based in the Northern California office, Southern California office, or, occasionally, internationally. Please contact Soheir Stolba for more information about internships.

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### Scholarship Fund

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During the year 2000, The SHARE Institute awarded two scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to college students who demonstrated commitment to the Institute's principles and financial need. The scholarships were used to purchase textbooks.

In the fall of 2001, the Institute plans to fund two students whose interests and education deal with human issues. If you know someone who would benefit from these textbook scholarships, please let us know so we can send them an application.

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### Technical Initiatives

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### Participation in Conferences and Consultancies

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Dr. Judith Fullerton attended the annual meeting of the National Perinatal Association, which had as its theme "Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Care." Dr. Fullerton met with many health care professionals who are interested in the area of public health particularly women's health.

Dr. Soheir Stolba gave a presentation at the University of California Davis on Women's Issues Among Afghan Refugees.

Also, represented the SHARE Institute in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference held at Sacramento State University in Sacramento on Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Stolba's presentation was entitled "Gender-based Violence in Nigeria." The presentation was well attended by African scholars.

Dr. Stolba will be working in Yemen and Jordan this summer. She will be working in Yemen to strengthen the capability of NGOs to inform the public about the negative health consequences of FGM.

In Jordan, Stolba will be a consultant to JSI working collaboratively with local Jordanian groups and other consultants to conduct a training needs assessment.

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### Young Women: Health and Environment Leadership Program

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The next generation of intelligent, confident and socially aware women is on the move thanks to a newly formed club at American River College. The Women's Health and Leadership Club, the

brainchild of Dr. Soheir Stolba and Ms. Elizabeth Torrano, started last winter with a \$50 grant from the Institute in order to educate college students on the problems that plague society and increase awareness of civil rights issues around the globe.

Members of this organization include students with a wide variety of avocations ranging from the arts to science and are representative of a cross-section of society, spanning diverse cultures, traditions, political beliefs and even gender. One may think that a club entitled ‘Women’s Health and Leadership’ would scare off male members, but that was not the case thanks to the welcoming attitude of the club’s advisors, as well as the female members of this close-knit group.

This club is committed to encouraging students to taking an active role in making the world a better place and in just a few months, the club succeeded in its goal. Through a series of fundraisers, the club managed to earn a handsome sum for Mustard Seed, a non-profit group dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless children in Sacramento as well as other global charities through the SHARE Institute.

In addition to selling food and hand-made jewelry, the club conducted leadership workshops designed to explain the importance of good communication for the future leaders of the world.

The Women’s Health and Leadership club will continue in the fall and we are hoping for a diverse group of students who want to make a difference in their school, community, and the world to take part in this truly worthwhile organization.



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### Training Tips

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This is a check list to be used by trainers in preparing for a training event. The checklist is part of Dr. Soheir Stolba’s manual entitled “Participatory Training Handbook: How to Design and Implement A Short Training Course.” If you would like a copy of the Manual, please e-mail the SHARE Institute’s website. The cost is \$30.00 (plus sales tax, shipping and handling).

#### A CHECK LIST: PREPARING FOR A TRAINING EVENT

Ensure that the following steps have been completed:

1. Prepare training needs assessment reports (surveys, interviews, supervisory reports and observations).
2. Prepare a training schedule:
  - Time allocations.
  - Ratio of didactic verses practical teaching hours.
  - Length of training day.
  - Diversity of training activities.

- Sequencing of sessions.
  - Continuity of topics and logical progression of topics
3. Prepare a syllabus, including a course description:
    - Course objectives.
    - Course outline.
    - Teaching methods.
    - Trainees' pre-/post-tests.
  4. Prepare course evaluation forms.
  5. Prepare and reproduce printed materials.
  6. Prepare and reproduce lesson plans.
  7. Prepare field trip reports.
  8. Prepare a substitute list.
  9. Prepare and order A/V materials.
  10. Prepare a task assignment list.
  11. Logistics
    - Select trainees.
    - Notify trainees.
    - Prepare training place/ check equipment and facilities.
    - Book accommodations.
    - Prepare and practice with A/V equipment.
    - Print workshop completion certificates.
    - Ensure that financial arrangements have been completed.
    - Ensure that all training staff members have been notified of their schedule.

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### Fundraising

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Thank you to all the friends of the Institute who donated money to the India workshops or sent a donation through a gift card. The SHARE Institute is thankful to have such dedicated and generous friends and associates. The Institute is currently writing proposals to supplement private funds. Please let us know if you hear of any funding opportunities.

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Gift Donation Cards

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Many friends of the Institute sent holiday gift donation cards to family and friends. Gift donation cards are a great way to celebrate a holiday, accomplishment, or special occasion by giving to those who are less fortunate. By giving a tax-deductible gift donation, the “gift recipient” will receive a beautiful card acknowledging the donation in her/his name, and health and well-being projects around the world will receive the funds that they so desperately need. Gift donations can be earmarked for a certain project, or be used for the projects that most need funds.

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Other ways to help:

\*\*Donate money to the mini-grant program. Tax-deductible donations of any amount will help local people further improve their lives. Contributors may suggest types of projects for the Institute to launch.

\*\*Spread the word. Let others know about the SHARE Institute and how they can help.

\*\*Get involved. We would love to have you make a difference in international and domestic issues. Let us know your interests and how you can share your skills.

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The SHARE Institute

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