
"An 'Active Society' is one characterised by opportunity and choice, cohesion and solidarity.

Enhancing 'activity' goes beyond attempts to achieve full employment or increased labour force participation. It means taking bold steps to encourage economic and social participation by recognising the multiple areas of activity - market and non-market - that individuals are engaged in, and acknowledging the growing interdependence between those areas of activity."

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Women's opportunities to influence the adjustment process have so far been minimal. Empowering women to become active agents shaping structural change requires a re-definition of the inter-relationships between the social, economic and political factors that currently inhibit women's participation and life choices. It means applying a new perspective to the causes of inequality."

"Although a necessary condition for achieving gender equality, the limited impact of anti-discrimination and equal opportunity measures points to the systemic nature of gender-based inequalities, and the need for a systemic solution. That solution lies in applying an integrated approach to institutional change aimed at addressing the contradictions and tensions generated at the interface between the household, the community and employment structures. Clearly, the rewards of change will not accrue exclusively to women. Men's life choices will also be enhanced and society as a whole will benefit from such an integrated policy strategy."

"Men's and women's lifecycle patterns are changing. Diverse family types, new forms of employment and greater opportunities for lifelong learning result in increased heterogeneity - between individuals and across the lifecycle of any individual. Policies need to ensure that this diversity does not translate into poverty, persistent dependency or social exclusion and that individuals do not get permanently trapped in a situation appearing at a specific time in their lifecycle."

- in "Shaping structural change: the role of women"
OECD report, Paris 1991