

EDITORIAL

With this maiden issue of the *Review*, the University Center for Women's Studies embarks on an attempt to establish women's studies as a legitimate area of concern in academic research and publishing at the University of the Philippines.

This journal hopes to serve as a forum where ideas on specific issues and concerns affecting the lives of women may be exchanged as seen from the analytical perspectives of different disciplines. At the same time, it hopes to encourage and publish efforts at interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. "Feminist" in this context refers to a perspective which recognizes that women are marginalized both with respect to their status in society and as a focus of academic inquiry, and attempts to remedy that situation. This orientation seeks to give intellectual coherence to a growing body of studies on women in the Philippines: on their lives, their work, their problems, whether at home, in the community or the workplace.

More broadly, any study that leads to a better understanding of women's realities or gives us information about women which has hitherto been neglected or overlooked is included under the rubric of women's studies to be published in this journal. Creative works which provide insights into women's consciousness and give life to their hopes and dreams are equally welcome. The journal also expects to feature regularly interviews of women from various sectors of society. These will help us to reconstruct the contours of women's lives through a first-hand account of their experiences, and to discover ways in which they have invested their lives with meaning and dignity.

Diverse but not disparate, the increasing number of women's studies often reveal women to be not only passive subjects of discrimination or inequality but active agents in transforming their lives and shaping their history. By helping this pattern to emerge, the *Review* hopes to make a contribution, however small, to the empowerment of women for full participation in the development of Philippine society.

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