

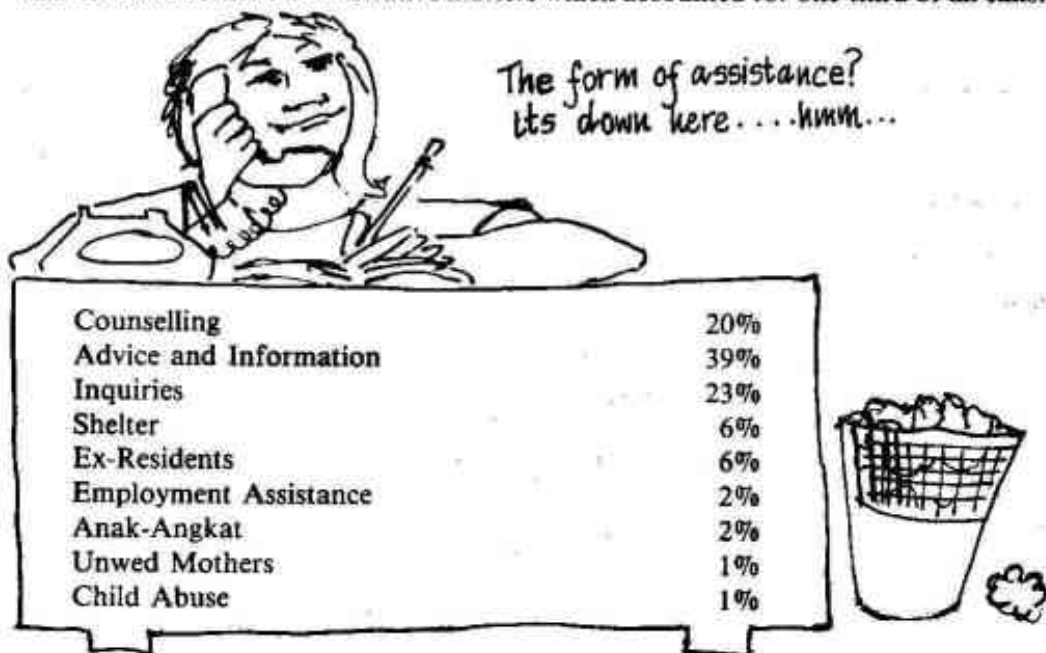
SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

WAO Services: The Figures

Battered women obtain assistance from WAO in several ways: through the telephone, while staying at the Centre; and then support on leaving the Centre.



As for other years 1987 kept the telephone ringing continuously. Staff and volunteers attended to queries from the public, advised and counselled women in crisis situations, reassured ex-residents as well as dealt with calls related to donations, publicity, volunteers and other administrative matters which accounted for one-third of all calls.



During 1987, 61 women with 82 children stayed at the Centre. This included some women who came to stay at the Centre for the second or third time as well as two unmarried pregnant women who were referred to us by the Department of Welfare Services for temporary shelter and one unmarried woman who came back to the Centre for support and shelter.



Mia look it's an increase from last year

That's a lot... What do you think?



Since Sept. '82
360 Women
Sought WAO's
shelter.

Yes! For 4 years it's a lot



This year again more Indian women



But these figures are not representative of Malaysia. Also have a look at the face to face counseling figures.



It would signify their dependence on a welfare system rather than anything else. It's sad really. Most of them are young too.

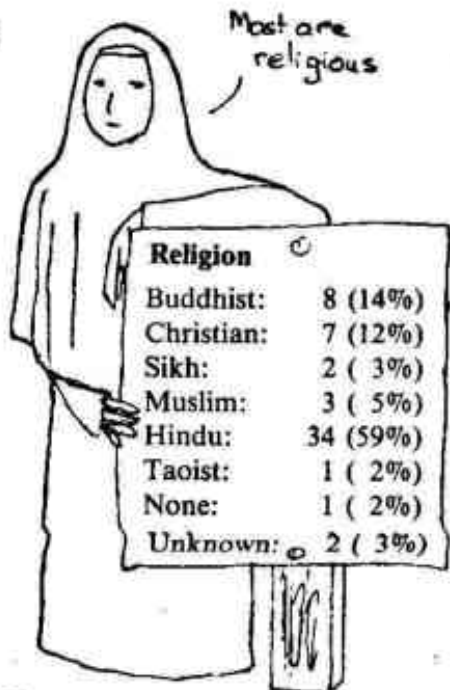
Ethnicity	Indian	Chinese	Total
New Residents	33	13	46
Old Residents	9	3	12
Unmarried	2		2
Other	1		1
Total	45 (74%)	16 (26%)	61

Profile of 58 married women as follows:

Age:	
Below 20 years	1 (2%)
21-30 years	30 (52%)
31-40 years	22 (38%)
41-50 years	4 (7%)
51-60 years	1 (2%)



The women have stayed for a day and as long as 3 months. On the average it was 23 days.



Education/Employment:

	%
No Schooling	18
Primary School Form 3	29
Form 5	30
Form 6	17
Tertiary level	3
Not available	3
Unemployed	62
Unskilled jobs	6
Skilled jobs	12
Clerical jobs	3
Self employed	12
Professional jobs	8
	3

These battered women have no education. What do you expect from labourers?

Hey you better have a look at this.



That man should have a look at these women's earnings too.

	%
LESS THAN \$400	45
\$400 - \$599	14
\$600 - \$799	18
MORE THAN \$1000	9
NOT KNOWN	14

Marriage:



The average duration of marriage was 9.2 years ranging from 1 to 35 years. Over one-third of them were not registered and most marriages except for one were first marriages. Children: The average number the woman had was 3, with one child less than 5 years old the rest being older.





That's the spouse's data



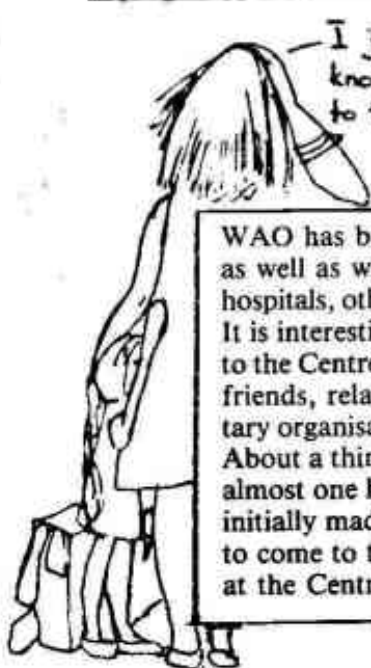
These women have to put up with these drunken men. Why can't they learn some decencies and stop the battering



58% women felt their husbands had drinking problems 10% took drugs and 17% gambled

8 women mentioned they had drinking problem 1 gambled.

The average age of the spouse was 36 years. Their ages ranged from 23 years to 62 years. The ethnicity basically followed the women's except for a few intermarriages: Indians 42 (72%), Chinese 14 (24%), Malays 1 (2%) and other 1 (2%). Sixteen per cent of the spouses were unemployed, 57 per cent were employed in unskilled jobs, 5 per cent in skilled jobs, 5 per cent in clerical jobs, 7 per cent in professional jobs and 9 per cent were self employed (information was not available for the remaining 2%). Twenty-two per cent of the wives did not know the income their husbands earned, but of those known, 33 per cent earned less than \$400, 25 per cent: \$400 to \$599, 6 per cent \$600 to \$799, 17 per cent \$800 to \$999 and 19 per cent earned more than \$1000.



I just don't know where to turn to.



I heard this programme on radio about this WAO or something. Call that place-ah.

WAO has been trying to reach those in need through the mass media as well as with contacts through the Department of Welfare Services, hospitals, other voluntary organisations, Legal Aid Bureau and the police. It is interesting to note that about one quarter of the women who came to the Centre heard about it from the mass media, another quarter from friends, relatives and ex-residents, about a third through other voluntary organisations and the remainder from doctors, hospitals and others. About a third was referred by the Department of Welfare Services, and almost one half by ex-residents and friends. Most of the women (67%) initially made their first contact on the phone and made arrangements to come to the Centre whereas the remaining 33 percent just appeared at the Centre without any contact.

All these marriage problems can be solved in the home. Why come to this WAO?

They're not just marriage problems. 93% have been physically battered. It's not one incident but repeated beatings that force the women to flee. 27% mentioned problems with in-laws, who condoned the beatings.

In 2 cases the first wives joined their husbands to beat the women.

56% mentioned financial problems. 17% were kicked out of their homes by their husbands and/or else had nowhere to go. 41% had psychological problems - depression, sense of hopelessness - obvious in situations like this.

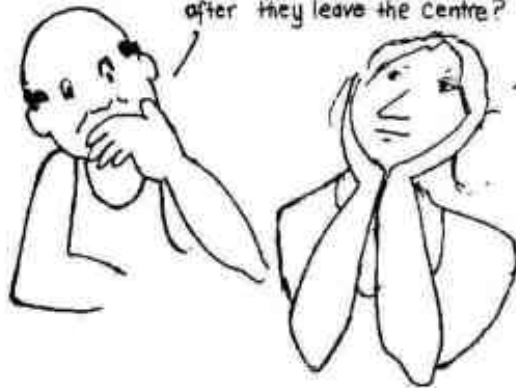
Other problems mentioned by the women were sexual problems, husbands' womanism etc. One woman who came with her young daughter ran away from home because the husband was molesting her daughter.



What happens to these women after they leave the Centre?

They are encouraged to make their own decisions and whatever advice and help is required is given.

These are the figures of women who left the Centre.

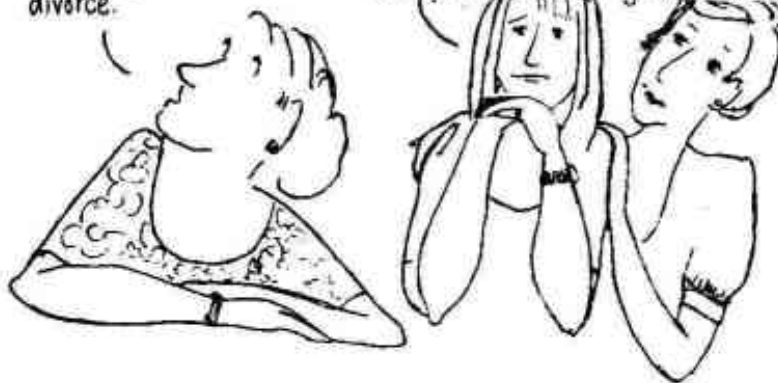


33	Returned to their husbands
36	Lived independently
29	Lived with relatives and friends
2	Not known

Of those who leave, some come back again to the Centre, some return to their husbands, some obtain a divorce.

With the few volunteers WAO has it tries to follow up and keep contact with the woman - some call back regularly, some write back but many move on and lose contact with us as they start their lives.

We hope with more volunteer support we can work out a programme of 'After Care'!



We can try something, don't worry...

I just don't know what to do?

Face to Face Counselling

In addition to the residents and the numerous telephone calls for advice and counselling there are other women who have come to the Centre for advice and counselling on marriage, employment, legal issues and financial aid. During 1987, 30 women came to the Centre for this. These women are able to take charge of things and do not need the Centre as a shelter support. These women tend to come only once and we often do not know how things have worked out for them.

The ethnicity of the women are:

Malay	—	6	(20%)
Indian	—	8	(27%)
Chinese	—	15	(50%)
Foreign	—	1	(3%)

