

ABSTRACT

This book, largely based on observation, interviews and many years of personal association with the Hutterite communes in western Canada and the American mid-West, explores the communal role of Hutterite women. The book consists of two parts: The first is an academic discussion of the topic, and the second is a travel diary. One of the issues examined is how the Hutterite women handle the absence of gender equality inherent in their religious doctrine and age-old traditions. In the Hutterite community, women are inferior to men; they cannot vote and are denied other rights enjoyed by the men; they do not take part in communal leadership or occupations, and they are bound by all kinds of restrictions on their freedom.

Meanwhile, the growing exposure of the Hutterites to the outside world, willing or not, in the wake of the worldwide technological revolution of the last few decades and the process of globalization, has impacted on the status of the women and affected their role in society, their behavior and their power of influence. The historic image of the Hutterite woman as lagging far behind, repressed by a community of devout Christians that espouses inequality between the sexes, no longer corresponds with reality. The intrinsic inequality and other issues that compromise women may be preserved *de jure*, but they do not necessarily exist *de facto*.

The increasing exposure of the communes to North American culture has been a major factor in the women's desire to play a more influential role in the commune, first and foremost on issues of importance to them. Nevertheless, the women generally avoid challenging religious tenets and traditions, working within the system instead. Their power derives from four main factors: (a) spending a large part of the day together as a group; (b) their centrality in running the household, childcare and educating the young; (c) their responsibility for food and services in the commune; (d) their husband's appreciation of their vital role in running the household and raising the children.

As exposure to the outside world grows, we can assume that the women's desire for advancement will intensify, and the range of issues in which they seek influence will also become more varied.

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Their Own Way: Studying and Documenting the Lives of Women in
Modern-Day Hutterite Communes

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Yad Tabenkin

The Research and Documentation Center
Of the Kibbutz Movement

Ruth Katz , Yossi Katz

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Modern-Day Hutterite Communes



אחראיות לגידול הילדים



אחראיות לזמן הפנוי של הילדים



אין שיחות בטלות



אופות ביחד



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בחנות הבדים המיועדת להוטרים



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