

Negro women were the "problem children" of 1936. Because of socio-economic conditions a disproportionately large number of Negro women are heads of families, especially in the South. These same women are largely untrained and have experienced great difficulty in securing assignments. They have been employed in large numbers on sewing projects, and in some States on beautification projects, but apparently this employment has not been sufficient. Late year reductions made the problem more acute.

Beautification projects (light manual labor) have been used in some southern States to absorb those women unable to sew, or to do other types of available work. The use of Negro and white women on these projects requiring some use of shovels and hoes has caused a great deal of controversy. Not generally known to exist this practice is given wide and explosive publicity when discovered by roving reporters, as recently in the Birmingham area of Alabama. Negro workers and leaders are divided on the suitability of such projects.

The Household Training Project for domestics is proving generally beneficial to Negro women. Trainees with the aid of placement bureaus have secured better jobs commanding higher wages. Some complaint has come from the Carolinas that the training of white women is leading to further displacement of Negroes from these traditionally Negro jobs.