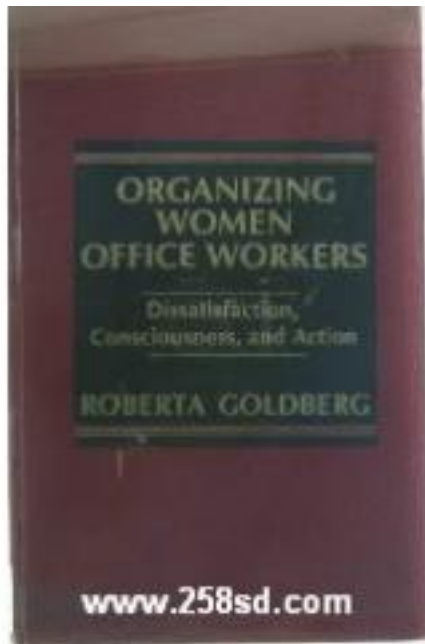


Organizing women office workers: Dissatisfaction, consciousness, and action



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Chapter 1
 Introduction
 This study is an examination of the concepts of dissatisfaction and
consciousness as they were experienced by women office workers who
belong to a working women s organization. While there have been studi~s
of the history of women workers and how they fit into the occupational
and social structurei¼CE1 little attention has been paid to the worker herself
or to the problems she encounters on the job.~ Consequentlyi¼CE we have lit-
tle information to help us understand how or why the recent workers
movement has arisen. This study focuses on the process by which women
have become aware of

their own dissatisfaction as workers¹⁴ and to what extent they see this as tied to their specific jobs and/or the fact that they are women. In order to pursue this issue¹⁴ I conducted a case study of one organization¹⁴ Baltimore Working Women¹⁴ that is part of the working women s movement. I have concentrated on the dissatisfactions that the women experience at work and the consciousness that prevails as they participate in this office workers' organization. I also investigated their work experiences and other relevant information pertaining to the participants. Included in this study is an examination of the origins and history of the group itself¹⁴ its present structure¹⁴ an overview of the issues raised by its members¹⁴ and strategies for action. In essence¹⁴ I investigated the types of consciousness that women in clerical work roles experience in relation to class and gender as they participate in working women s organizations. These findings help clarify the unique conditions for women who experience specific demands in terms of family obligations and at the same time must work for wages outside the home. With many women entering the work force today¹⁴ we can ~hi¹⁴~ri¹⁴~ will be changes in the family and in the society as sex-based

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