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SICAULT

UNICEF PROGRAMMES IN BRAZIL

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From an interesting interview with Dr. Arlindo Lopes Correa, Executive Secretary of the Center of Human Resources in the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, Ministry of Planning and Coordination, we have heard that very few things have been already made to integrate the problems of children and youth in the general work of the Ministry. It is only recently that meetings with Scientists, on Science Technology applied to education, has had an impact on health programmes and, particularly, on nutrition, which is now considered a basic component of planning in education, but very few researches have been already made, or even considered, for planning in relation with the needs of children and youth.

The Executive Secretary was hoping that UNICEF will help with such achievements, by introducing philosophy, methodology and applied researches in different fields, in order to make possible the elaboration of a national policy for children and youth.

The Executive Secretary was also hoping that UNICEF will not disperse its aid to many programmes, to small institutions, but concentrate her own assistance in priority fields such as pre-school education, nutrition, etc.

From a panoramic view of the projects we are now assisting in Brazil, we can see that 4 or 5 are a part of a facet of a larger integrated programme.

1. Center of Orientation of Youth - (Plano Experimental de Prevenção de Marginalização) undertaken with Foundation and ABCAR. We have seen in Petrolina, Patos, Mossoró.

2. Rural Youth (Plano Experimental de Juventude Rural). We have seen in Muriaé are very similar in nature, in their philosophy, in their field applications since cities like Mossoró and Patos certainly are in a rural "context".

3. Rural extension services (with ABCAR but without the Foundation) present also the same basic features and are oriented towards the same goals.

4. Social Services, with reorientation of social workers, have a new approach with large impact on community development and on promotion of children and youth. All these projects are inspired by the same sound philosophy, which is the work at the village level or at the municipal level, with large participation of population, mainly youth (the approach being educative, and no more "Assistencial".)

It will appear possible in the future to consider this project under the same heading such as Integrated Programme for child and youth, with one Master

Planops and different annexes corresponding to the partner and to the region of implementation etc.

The only problem is probably to concentrate a little more the different actions undertaken in order to have at the community level a comprehensive programme oriented to protection and to preparation for life.

5. The Nutrition programme is not exactly in the same lines. We have in the Institute at Recife the possibility to train professional nutritionists at the high level working in the Secretary of Health in order to create a better understanding and better training in nutrition.

6. The Health programmes (training of auxiliary nurses and equipment of basic infra-structure) can be also considered as a part of a larger programme, which is for the moment divided in many projects, scattered in many parts of the country and not concentrated in two or three states in order to make a real impact (politically difficult).

The main problem is to weigh the relative importance of priorities given to us by different authorities in Brazil and which are not always the same. That is why an overall study can be useful in order to determine with the Ministry of Planning where are the priorities on which UNICEF can work - geographical and sectorial.

Personally I am considering that the work at the village level, with its very large training implications, is probably one of the most important which can be achieved in Brazil, but under three conditions:

First, that the protection of the child in the field of health and nutrition, will be considered as priority number one in this community work, which is not the case in the centers I have visited. But the new adviser for WHO, attached to ABCAR, will probably solve this problem.

Second, that the participation of youth in such programmes will involve an adequate preparation of youth for an active life in the field of agriculture in the rural areas or in the different fields of opportune jobs, in the Municipios.

Third, that this work will be concentrated in few areas, in order not to lose a large part of this impact.

As far as the work in the favelas, in the slum areas, which is one priority of the Foundation (FNBEM), I do not see for the moment the role of UNICEF, since too many factors are involved which are still unknown. But perhaps one experiment can be made in a selected area, such as in Recife, in order

to see if an integrated project can work.

It would seem also very important that the observations made in the report on the Foundation will be properly taken into account in the UNICEF programmes in which the Foundation is not participating. I will recall particularly the problem of training, training in puericulture, training in nutrition seems one point to be considered very accurately. Certainly the course organized by ABCAR at Viçosa, with the help of UNICEF, FAO and WHO for interdisciplinary training at the State level, will give more possibility of understanding at the State level of the importance of these programmes for the child welfare, but I hope that in all of the six training centers of ABCAR similar courses will be developed in order to create the same philosophy at the level of municipalities and at the village level. (That is the ABCAR plan).

The evaluation made by the social workers on the revision of the curriculum made in Manaus, are demonstrating that the contact with reality is one possible way to guide in more precise terms the action in the field.

The Transamazonian area is one of the very important projects and to which the Government is now giving priority, but 1972 is considered like the first step to be achieved with new communications, opening of new roads. It will be interesting to prepare already a common programme with SUDAM, ABCAR and INCRA in order to apply in the new communities to be created, or already existing along the road Brasília/Belem, an integrated project, following the same philosophy.

Finally, from a visit to the Getulio Vargas Foundation it appears possible to undertake a study of the basic problems relative to children and youth with their collaboration, in order to prepare the future policy for children and youth in Brazil. This exploration can be continued.

This organization is in charge of the coordination of all economic and social development in Amazon region. The department of "social infra-structure" is in charge of health, education, housing, colonization, community development. The policy is to select poles of development for integrated and concentrated action.

Health was not integrated in this department until now, but in 1971 full integration will be achieved.

Education is facing the problem of 58% of analphabets and school attendance of only 60%. One small experience in the pre-vocational training is already implemented with UNICEF. The huge difficulties are coming from missionaries, which have promoted in primary education a large diversity of action in the 34 Diocese of this region, but in general with no "acculturation" and no preparation for an active life.

Community services and social work have been undertaken with UNICEF assistance. In the first step the content of the programme and the curriculum has been established by Directors and professors coming from different social schools of Brazil in relation with Development and with local realities.

The second step has been to organize courses for executives and directors.

The third step is organization of schools for professional and superior level.

Colonization

They have three types of colonies: (1) Colony of Japanese for example, which are excellent in all aspects.

(2) The official Nordesteño colonies not very successful.

(3) Spontaneous colonization such as Santarem or along the road from Belem/Brasilia, which has been in general very good.

Transamazonic

This main project will create a gigantic road from João Pessoa, Atlantic coast, to the boarder of Peru, 5 kms. and another road from Cuiabá to Santarem, 1.500 kms with an area of 10 kms. each side of the road for colonization.

This organization was in charge of the development of the Northeast of Brazil. The population is around 30 millions inhabitants. The growth during the last 10 years is estimated at 7 millions. These coordination plans are made for 3 years, 1960-62, 63-65, 66-68, 69-71. They are resulting of the conjunction of plans prepared by the Federal Government, by the States, the municipalities, the agencies.

SUDENE is playing an important role in helping Federal ministries, state secretaries, prefectures in the implementation of all aspects of the economic development in collaboration with many agencies existing such as SENAI, SENAC, ABCAR, etc.

In the social field they have one department of Human Resources which is mainly oriented toward health, education, vocational training, community development but there is not a section taking care of the overall problem of the children and youth.

In the health sector they are helping to make the inventory of the situation (nosology) to plan action in the health sector to assist in the development of infra-structure to complement at the community level the insufficiency in the net-work, to train people in close liaison with the Ministry, the department of health of the different states, with SESP and WHO.

In education they are training the trainers, equip the laboratories, they are studying the reform of the curriculum with USAID.

In the vocational training they are working with SENAI for industry, with ABCAR for agriculture and with bilateral aid. For example, Japan has given instructors for the culture of cotton for the cotton industry.

But the total amount of money they can dispose in the social field is relatively small, 15.000.000 cruzeiros coming from the Federal Government, the same amount coming from the States (matching) and 3.000.000 from the Organization of American States.

In the community development they are trying to organize handicrafts cooperatives, already 36 exist and they are organizing the marketing and the exportation.

From the visit we made in Rio to the Deputy Director of ABCAR, Sr. Orlando de Albuquerque, we have heard that the general objective of this "private" organization is to increase in the rural areas the social level in terms of health, nutrition, education, to raise the per caput income of the rural producer.

They have a very large staff at the professional level 2231 with 61 economists and 1170 technicians; at the middle level 529 extension workers, 804 home economists and 12 technicians; at the field level 46,700 active leaders, of which 4,000 agriculture, 19,000 welfare, 8,000 rural youth, 5,000 rural organization.

In the agricultural field many projects are undertaken (Manioc, potatoes, soya, cattle, poultry, etc.) in order to raise the productivity.

In welfare area they have different activities: education such as school canteens, school reform, organization of youth clubs, school gardens and family gardens, parents schools, libraries.

In the field of health training of "Curiosas" of mothers, of leaders in sanitation (latrines, water supply, treatment of worms, etc.)

Nutrition garden - fruit trees, domestic raising of poultry, hens, rabbits, 4 H Clubs - training of leaders.

Housing - Rural credit - cooperative, marketing. Community action - youth organization.

For the integration of programme:

Executive Board at the Federal level with participation of the ministries of agriculture, education, health, interior and Planning.

At the regional level - work is done under the umbrellas of SUDENE, SUDECO with the representatives of the States.

The Technical administrative council is composed of 21 representatives with a Director and an executive secretary. A standing committee can take action.

The geographical repartition is made through 21 affiliates.

6 training centers - Personnel, technicians, leaders.

Financing is insured for 60% by Federal Government, 40% by States.

Total budget for 1970 (47 million cruzeiros).

Contracts are passed with many institutions for example with INCRA (Instituto de Colonization and Agrarian Reform) for the Transamazonic programme in which new

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nucleus of colonization will be implemented.

The particularity of ABCAR and the efficiency recognized by everybody in Brazil is its status "Société civile de droit privé" with large participation of the Government such as National Confederation of Agriculture, National Confederation of Work, but without any subordination.