



CF-RAI-USAA-DPP-RAM-2006-00055

Expanded Number **CF-RAI-USAA-DPP-RAM-2006-00055**

External ID

Title

Some Considerations relating to children and youth in the Second Development Decade. Plan/P/4. Prepared by UNICEF Secretariat, distributed to Committee for Development Planning

Date Created / From Date

Date Registered

Date Closed / To Date

Primary Contact

Home Location **CF/RAF/ZW/H0022-1980-000075835 (In Container)**

1/2/1969 at 11:23 AM

5/12/2006 at 11:23 AM

F13: Record Copy? **No**

Owner Location **Dep.Exec Dir,Operations (Heyward) =50019304**

Current Location/Assignee **Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 5/12/2006 at 11:23 AM**

F12: Status Certain? **No**

d01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Contained Records

Container **CF/RA/BX/N9/ED/OP/1980/T002: Mr. Heyward - Emergencies & Educ:**

Date Published

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1:Date First Published

Priority

Record Type **A01 DPP-RAM ITEM**

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

Number of images without cover

Upasana

9

TELEPHONE PLAZA 4-1234

CABLE ADDRESS UNICEF



UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND • FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

2 January 1969

The attached document was prepared by the UNICEF Secretariat, and is being distributed to the members of the Committee for Development Planning, with the agreement of the Secretariat of the Committee.

Some considerations relating to children and youth in the Second Development Decade

submitted by UNICEF

The Report of the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the Committee for Development Planning includes in its review of "Better income distribution and other social objectives" (E/4682, paras 25-31) important objectives relating to children and youth. The Committee concludes by drawing attention to the difficult choices facing policy makers in developing countries. The following notes are submitted to help clarify priorities with respect to children and youth policy.

Taking Account of Children and Youth

1) Each country's development effort should take account of the protection of children and youth and their preparation to contribute to the future development of their country. The rising generation can be a natural vehicle of change and modernisation. During the period of a 15-year perspective plan those who comprise the younger generation at the beginning of the period will be one third of the executants of the plan by the end. The preparation of children and youth will affect two thirds of the executants by the end of the following perspective plan. */ On the average more than 20 per cent of the GNP is spent by parents and governmental organisations on the rearing of children aged 0-15.

Objectives for Children Related to Development

2) In computing total consumption and total investment in the Government's development plan, expenditure on the protection and welfare of children and youth may be counted as consumption, and expenditure on their preparation or development may be counted as investment. Such consumption if well oriented, is one of the

*/ The younger generation is taken as the population 0-15 and working life is taken as 15-60, or three perspective plans. In the above calculation, mortality between 15 and 60 is ignored; in fact it is quite low.

objectives of development, and we return to this aspect below, under "Consumption policy". In practice, many measures relating to children and youth have both consumption and investment aspects.

Below is a listing of some generally accepted objectives of children and youth policy which appear to be more particularly linked to future growth of the economy. They are grouped according to three age cohorts. These age cohorts are frequently the primary concern of different ministries. The objectives will of course be realised more effectively if the programmes are mutually supporting.

Maternity, infancy and pre-school age

3) The pre-school age is of fundamental importance for the development of the future adult. His attitudes and his personality will be strongly influenced by his pre-school years. Malnutrition may retard his intelligence, other illnesses may have their repercussions on adult morbidity or a shortened span of life.

Objectives:

- a) better health and nutrition will avoid mental retardation, improve energy, and reduce morbidity of the future adults.
- b) better child rearing would build confidence to improve their situation rather than submit passively to it (Erickson). It is at this age that the child absorbs ("internalizes") the basis for his values, and many changes in traditional values are a pre-condition of greater social mobility and modernisation in general.
- c) reduction of family size, which is the same objective, seen from the point of view of the parents and children, as the reduction of the rate of population growth.

Primary school age.

4) The school may well be the only government channel reaching the child, and for most children schooling will not go beyond primary. It should not only convey knowledge, it should confirm attitudes, and in its last years it should give some pre-vocational orientation. Objectives:

- a) teaching of rational attitudes and methods of problem solving;
- b) teaching of literacy, including arithmetical literacy;
- c) teaching of respect for manual work;
- d) ~~discovery of talent. Preparation of the 10-20 per cent which it usually is possible to consider for secondary schooling, and promotion of vertical social mobility and greater quality of opportunity;~~
- e) ~~civic teaching, including development "élan" and basis for participation in democratic government;~~
- f) (In rural zones) teaching some understanding of rural life and "rural science", extending in the cash-crop zone to preparation for commercial farm management;
- g) (In urban zones) in the slums and shanty towns, breaking the self-defeating ideology common in poor urban environments (culture of poverty).

Adolescence

5) Adolescence is the second most formative period for the personality after the pre-school age. In developing countries most adolescents are seeking employment by the age 11-13 and the insufficient number of job openings and the underemployment in rural areas are grave problems of this age group. Objectives:

- a) preparation of the elite through secondary schooling for the 10-120 per cent of primary school leavers, whom it is usually possible to provide for. This will be terminal for most, but will include the preparation of a small percentage for higher education.

Fostering entrepreneurial and managerial skills.
Technical and vocational education;

- b) entry into a useful occupation. In the rural zones this usually means family employment or self employment
- c) fostering motivation for development, and the further education of girls as future mothers, through youth organisation, etc.
- d) (In urban zones) prevention of pre-delinquency and delinquency
- e) protection against abuses of child employment.

Priorities

6) The Committee for Development Planning has suggested that countries should aim to increase their ratio of domestic saving to 15-20 per cent of GNP */. In giving priority to investment, it is one of the lessons of the First Development Decade that investment in human resources including the rising generation, should not be neglected.

It is generally accepted that this investment should include health services and family planning (where in accord with Government policy); agriculture, food and nutrition policy; some social welfare and community development services; education and training; and employment services.

Recommendations about the organization of such services are available from the appropriate member agencies of the UN system. With the help of the country's planning and coordinating machinery they can be made mutually supporting. In DD2 more progress needs to be made in extending them into rural areas and shanty-towns. This requires adapting them to the financial constraints of areas of low income, through such measures as the use of administrative channels already reaching into the village for more than one service, the wider use of auxiliary personnel, and the participation of the community served.

*/ Committee for Development Planning: Report of the Fourth and Fifth Sessions, 1969, para. 23.

However countries below a certain level of GNP per inhabitant^{*} may be in danger of lessening their future rate of economic growth if they spread their resources for children and youth evenly over the whole country. Because of scarcity of resources they may concentrate their more comprehensive measures for investment in children and youth in development sectors, poles of growth, developing regions, etc.

This does not mean however that the rest of the country which will normally account for the majority of the child population, can be left without any provision for the improvement of the situation of children and youth.

The First Development Decade has amply demonstrated the political, social and economic dangers of too wide a gap between developing and other regions. Tension and waste arises from social stratification and lack of upward mobility for capable young people.

For these, as well as other reasons, the plan will provide, if possible, for some improvement of the situation of children and youth also in those parts of the country which are outside the development areas. Again, some priority may be given to areas that are being prepared to be drawn into development in future plans. Another criterion is the relative cost of delivering services to the part of the country concerned. A further objective is to try to avoid deterioration of conditions and to mitigate the negative effects of development. There are a number of possibilities of lower priority.

Programmes costing more to prepare, but little more to execute

7) There are some actions benefitting children and youth which may cost more for research and planning, but cost little more in application than measures neglecting this aspect. An example in

^{*}/ If this level is as low as \$200/inhabitant then 4/5 of the children of developing countries are in countries below this level.

the important field of nutrition is given in FAO's "Indicative World Plan", which shows that the best hope for increasing the supply of protein, between now and 1985, lies in the use of cereals selected for higher yield and protein content, and in use of legumes giving a higher yield. Another example is the orientation of school education, which is particularly important in relation to attitudes to manual work and to rural work. While it is difficult to change the methods and content of schooling, the benefits of extending good schooling are out of all proportion to the additional cost compared with schooling unadapted to the needs of the country. A third example is the use of radio for schools, education of women and for many extension purposes. Now that the transistor radio is almost everywhere, the cost is substantially the cost of preparing the broadcasts.

Consumption Policy

8) Having regard to the importance of a higher level of consumption as the final objective of development, more emphasis may be given to consumer education. This applies particularly in areas where people will have to handle more money transactions. Consumer education can be done at no great cost by radio; by cooperatives, by extension and community development services where they exist. During the First Development Decade there were areas where production increased but living standards of the mass of the people went down; there were even areas which moved from import to exporting foods but showed an increase in cases of child malnutrition. Consumer education should pay particular attention to the needs of children and youth who constitute 40 to 50 per cent of the population and on whom is spent about 20 per cent of the GNP. Moreover, the level of living for children as a whole tends to be below the national average, because the breadwinner's earnings cannot be increased in proportion to the number of his dependents.

Local- and family-financed Improvements

9) Greater use may be made of local financing for services which give a visible benefit to the people. Countries with a GNP of under \$100 per inhabitant can usually collect only about 10 per cent as central government revenue; countries with \$200 per

inhabitant may collect up to 20 per cent. Even the higher level is insufficient to provide adequate services over the whole country. A big contribution can be made by users, in the form of services or money or through local taxation.

There is substantial scope for helping families to improve their production in modest ways and to use some of that increase for the benefit of their children. Production in the home plot or in the village of foods required for the family is one such means. Families are also ready to spend money or give services to contribute to schooling and health services.

Responsible Parenthood

10) The increase in rate of population growth, due largely to a reduction in infant and child mortality, indicates an improvement in living conditions. While there is no agreement about whether or not the subsequent population exodus to mushrooming shanty-towns represents a deterioration compared to rural life, it is certain that the whole equilibrium of the rural areas has been disturbed and that, as in past ages, population growth demands substantial changes.

It is also certain that a smaller average size of family will contribute to a raising of living standards. Hence it is advisable to give priority consideration to programmes to help responsible parenthood, including family planning where in accord with government policy. This is a broad programme. Experience has shown that family planning services cannot be effective without some maternal and child health services. Moreover responsible parenthood requires the support of a number of indirect measures, some of which have been referred to above in other connections. These indirect measures would aim to improve the status of women and of children; break the sense of fatalism and show people that their efforts can control certain conditions of their life; open more opportunities for upward economic and social ability for the child who has been well cared for and educated; give literacy to girls and women.

National Policy

11) In order to take account of children and youth in the development effort, it is desirable to have a national policy for children and youth, based on an analysis of the existing situation and some common planning by the various ministries involved. A national policy does not imply a uniform policy over the whole country; rather its application should be adapted to local conditions, especially the great difference between urban and rural, and to draw upon the participation of the people to be served.