

CHAPTER 6

THE ROLE OF YOUTH PROGRAMMES AND THE YOUTH IN EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

With regard to the role of youth programmes in the development effort the Symposium made the following observations and recommendations:

- (i) The Symposium urged that planners and governments recognise and provide for the people as a resource - a resource that is vital to genuine national development. In this regard it was strongly suggested that machinery be instituted for the involvement of the youth in the formulation of national development policy, and it was advocated that a policy for youth is in fact a policy for the nation.
- (ii) It was suggested that a pre-requisite for genuine national development is the formulation of a philosophy or ideology based on an equitable distribution of economic activity and of assets within the national perspective, and in this regard it was recommended that there should be increased communication with the people through a continuing process of dialogue.
- (iii) In this respect, it was recognised that there is an important role for youth programmes, and it was urged that they be used to an increased extent, particularly in the process of education of the population with a view to changing attitudes and achieving an orientation that is conducive to keen involvement and dedicated participation in national development. In order to accomplish this, youth programmes should pay attention first to the development - all round development - of the youth themselves so as to facilitate their optimum contribution.

It was emphasised that there is an acute need for training in skills that are relevant to the achievement of the development

goals; and the institution of programmes for re-training, re-education and continued training was advocated. Such training, it was urged, should not be divorced from the realities of production, and it was recommended that training programmes should, wherever possible, involve production as an integral part of the training process.

- (iv) The need for catering to the disadvantaged in the society was recognised, as was also the fact that there are those among the youth, who may be described as un-clubbed and un-clubbable, but whose characteristic is a preference for less formal types of association. It should be recognised that these youth are not without potential and the harnessing of that potential in the way most effective was strongly advocated.
- (v) Through the medium of youth programmes emphasis should be given in the orientation process to leading through persuasion rather than coercion. In that regard advocacy was given in respect of the institution of national service in a form most appropriate to the particular country.
- (vi) With respect to the specifics of youth programmes themselves, deficiencies in the existing programmes were recognised; and it was recommended that there be an initiation of programmes complementary to the existing ones, ensuring continuation in the pursuit of activities which were engaged in within the ambit of the existing programmes but which are terminated because of the peculiar linkages of the particular programmes.
- (vii) If youth programmes are to deal effectively with all these things as well as to provide for sport and recreation, there is an urgent need for increasing the number of personnel involved in youth work and in community development; and it was strongly recommended that steps be taken to provide for additional staff in these fields. With respect to such staff it was suggested that attention be given to their training within the context of the development ideology and the skills required in the pursuit of the objectives deriving from it.

- (viii) The need was recognised for the establishment and servicing of youth groups additional to those now existing; and the servicing of such groups through a variety of ways, including non-formal education and career guidance, using agencies such as youth camps, and national service was advocated.
- (ix) It was recommended that attention should be given to encouraging the maximal inclusion of women in the national effort towards development and, therefore, to the provision of such training as would ensure their optimal participation.
- (x) It was strongly recommended that there should be improvement and development in the existing institutions for training in agriculture, commensurate with the emphasis which is being placed on agriculture in the context of the total development effort, with special reference to commercial agriculture.
- (xi) There should be provision, through the agency of youth programmes, of additional facilities for training in cottage industries, and such programmes should be used for the establishment of agricultural co-operatives - as well as the provision, through soft loans or other financial devices, of capital for the initiation and operation of such industries.
- (xii) Finally, it was recommended that there should be a continuing review of operational programmes to ensure their continued relevance.