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REPORT

of a

CONSULTATION

E G Y P T

February 25 to March 4, 1980

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REPORT ON CONSULTATION IN EGYPT

by Therese DeClercq  
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OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTATION

A follow-up visit to evaluate the progress made by the Egyptian home economists in their involvement in family planning; advise them on training programs; and explore the possibilities of testing the Arabic version of Working with Villagers.

Monday, February 25

During the morning Brabble and DeClercq met at the office with Ms. Laura Slobey and Mr. Tom Reese, Health and Population officers. Ms. Slobey briefed us on the different ministries that AID is working through. Slobey suggested names of contact persons at the Population and Family Planning Board, State Information Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and High Institute of Public Health (see Appendix).

Mr. Reese had been previously updated on AHEA-IFPP (objective and contacts) by DeClercq during her visit to AID February 21. DeClercq questioned him about possibilities of having home economists/extension workers do their training in El-Fayoum Province where the Ministry of Health is running a project. Mr. Reese replied that he does not have any objection if the proposal is accepted by the Ministry of Health which is an AID sub-contractor.

During the afternoon, Brabble and DeClercq met Mrs. Elweya Elwy, President of the Egyptian Home Economics Association. Elweya explained that Dr. Emara, Secretary of the Association, held a discussion with her on the Nairobi workshop after Emara returned from Kenya. Unfortunately, Dr. Emara did not write a report and did not follow-up her work because she was transferred to Saudi Arabia one month after her return. Mrs. Elwy suggested several other home economists who could take over and follow-up with AHEA-IFPP. She nominated Mrs. El Gidaily as a candidate to attend the Pre-Congress Workshop in the Philippines. Brabble and DeClercq made arrangements to meet and talk with Mrs. El Gidaily the following Friday.

Mrs. Elwy mentioned the regional office of FAO, will be transferred from Cairo to Rome in June, 1980. She showed her concern about her replacement as President of the Egyptian Home Economics Association. She hopes to have her place in good hands in order to continue the activities she initiated. Elwy explained that population education of family planning were introduced on a small scale in certain educational curricula. She is ambitious to integrate them into the home economics subject matters at different educational levels. She is also enthusiastic to see training programs taking place in rural areas. Brabble handed her out the last issue of the LINK and a copy of the "Country Assessment". She was also shown the Arabic translation of Working with Villagers which she was very interested to see and requested copies to be sent. A copy had been designated to be sent to her through AID/Cairo when the ten (10)

copies arrive which were sent through the AID Pouch from Washington.

Tuesday, February 26

During the morning Brabble and DeClercq kept an appointment with Mr. Ahmad Awad, Director General of Extension Administration, Ministry of Agriculture. On arrival it was learned that there was a misunderstanding and confusion on the part of the new secretary who had confirmed that meeting. In fact, Mr. Awad was out of town that day. DeClercq wrote a note to Mr. Awad and confirmed the appointment through his deputy. The time was used in meeting with some of the home economics extension workers who have their office in the same building. They explained to us the different field work they do such as demonstrations on nutrition, sewing, soap making, food conservation, poultry, and mother and child care including family planning advice. They mentioned however, that their fieldwork has been limited due to lack of organization and communication. When they were questioned on the idea of having family planning in an integrated training program, they replied willing, indicating that rural people are usually responding positively when they are convinced. They were shown the Arabic "Working with Villagers" and presented with copies of LINK and AHEA-IFPP booklet.

During the afternoon Brabble and DeClercq went to the Ministry of Youth where we met Mrs. Khalifa, the AID-sponsored participant, who attended the Nairobi Workshop as observer. We also met and talked with Mr. Hussein Gamal Nazim, the Deputy Minister of Youth, and Mr. Gamel Allam, Under-Secretary of the Supreme Council for Youth. Following her return from Kenya, Mrs. Khalifa submitted to her Ministry a detailed report on the workshop and recommended the following points:

- The idea of the development of new youth programs including home economics subjects to encourage and attract rural Egyptian girls to come to the Youth Centre.
- The reorganization of the youth center's working schedule to allow exclusive time for girls' activities.
- Starting of testing project in a rural center where adequate facilities could be provided. The experience of this project would serve as a base for requesting precise needs in materials and international technical assistance.

The Minister of Youth responded with approval on her recommendations. She further contacted the extension worker responsible at the Ministry of Agriculture to initiate a joint project with them. Mr. Nazim and Mr. Allam were eager to see the joint project with the Ministry of Agriculture taking place since they realized that within other factors the home economists extension workers are the best trainers for their women's youth. They also acknowledged that the Arabic Working with Villagers is a good material for the rural youth's training. They asked about possibilities of obtaining technical assistance and weaving machines for art and craft purposes and also the possibility of aid for furnishing youth and training centers. It was explained that our Project does not provide that kind of

material), but, we could help them submit their proposal to other donor organizations.

Mrs. Khalifa promised to submit a training program proposal to IFPP after she has her final meeting with agriculture extension responsables the following week.

Wednesday, February 27

Early in the morning Brabble and DeClercq took the train to Alexandria which is the second largest city in Egypt. There we visited the Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning. We met Mrs. Zahia Marzouk, ex-Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and now President of the Institute. We also met Mrs. Salha Awad, Director of the Institute, and Dr. Tarick Aboul Dahab, gynecologist and representing the Pathfinder Fund in Egypt and was visiting the Institute. We had a long discussion with all of them and were informed that the Institute was founded in 1972 as part of the Egyptian Family-Planning Association. The Institute is supervised and registered under the Ministry of Social Affairs and is a member of IPPF. It is the first Institute for Training and Research in the Middle East which serves the family planning purposes on the national, regional and international levels. The Institute is run by a committee of ten (10) persons representing different ministries and organizations concerned about family planning.

The Institute has as its objectives the training of different groups and categories of family planning workers as well as officials responsible for family planning activities in the different ministries. At the Institute they try to increase the competence of those working in delivering the services, training, information, education and communication, follow-up, evaluation, organization and planning in particular. The staff of the clinics have in-service at the Institute to cover observed deficiencies in their knowledge, skills and attitudes. At the Institute they also carry out research in cooperation with concerned departments. They also produce and distribute written materials on family planning.

We questioned Mrs. Awad about the possibility of using the Institute for training groups of home economists. She responded positively, but indicated that we should notify her on our plans ahead of time since the Center's schedule is planned on an annual basis.

Mrs. Awad gave us a tour of the facilities which include lecture room, the library, the residents' rooms, the dining room, the kitchen and the large garden. The Institute is located in a quiet residential area. Brabble and DeClercq were given Arabic copies of their annual report 1979 and several books on population education in Egypt.

Thursday, February 28

During the morning Brabble and DeClercq had an appointment at the Population and Family Planning Board. We met Dr. Moustafa El Sammaa, Deputy Chairman, and Dr. Haifaa Shanawany, consultant. We explained to them the objectives of AHEA-IFPP, its activities in different parts of the world, our

contacts in Egypt, and how the training program could be useful in Egypt. We showed them the Arabic Working with Villagers. They both showed interest in having home economists trained so they can later train the rural people within the framework of their project.

Dr. Sammaa exposed us to a recent proposal that the Board submitted to UNFPA as an extension of their population and development project. He stated that the purpose of the extension of this project was a) to involve more govern- orates and village council areas; b) to accelerate the reduction of birthrate as well as the reduction of child and infant mortality; c) to reduce migration from rural to urban areas by creating new work opportunities in the villages and d) to improve women's status through starting women's clubs.

Dr. Shanawany, told us that she is actually working on two research projects emphasizing women's participation in population and development and that she is willing to cooperate with us and write a joint proposal for a training program. Dr. Sammaa encouraged the idea of a meeting with Mr. Abdel Fatah, Director of Population and Development Project, who was unfortunately not available until two days later. Dr. Shanawany also suggested that we meet her too the same day to develop the points, and write the proposal on the basis of the discussion we will have with Mr. Abdel Fatah, Director of the project. Dr. Sammaa gave Dr. Brabble a copy of their proposal to UNFPA "A Proposal for Extension of Population and Development Project."

In the evening, Brabble and DeClercq met with Dr. Bogue, Director, Community and Family Study Center, University of Chicago, and Mr. Robert Higgins, consul- tant, Social Development Center, Egyptian State Information Service. They were both interested to know more about AHEA-IFPP, what kind of plans and pro- grams we are doing in Egypt, and which ministries we contacted. Dr. Bogue was also interested to know about IFHE in general and their activities in the field of family planning. Dr. Bogue was in Egypt for the Symposium on Population and Family Planning, February 17 to 21, 1980. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the Egyptian State Information Service and Social Development Center, Chicago (see Appendix--DeClercq report on symposium).

#### Friday, February 29

Friday is the weekend in Egypt. But at a social gathering at Mrs. Elwy's home we were able to meet Ms. El Gidaily, teacher of Food Sciences at the College of Home Economics, Helwan University and Ms. Esmat Roshdi, teaching Clothing and Textiles at the same college. Mrs. Elwy recommended Mrs. El Gidaily to be the candidate to attend the Pre-Congress Workshop in the Philippines. Mrs. El Gidaily worked several years at the College before completing her Ph.D. degree in Food Science in the U.S. in 1979. We talked to her and asked questions about her professional and educational background. We gave her information on AHEA-IFPP, and she asked us to provide her with materials on the project. Dr. Brabble gave her the application form for the Congress and copies of the LINK and the AHEA-IFPP booklet.

Saturday, March 1

This morning we returned to the Ministry of Agriculture where we met Mr. Ahmad Awad, General Director, Extension Department, Mr. Van Dissel, Dutch Expert, Mrs. Fatma Kheir El Dim, General Supervisor, Extension Department, and Ms. Safeya Mohallel, Home Economics Extension Worker.

DeClercq briefly reviewed her 1979 visit with them mentioning that their interest to collaborate and get assistance from AHEA-IFPP led to the nomination of Ms. Mohallel to attend the Nairobi Workshop. The purpose was for her to get orientation on AHEA-IFPP and gain some training on writing research proposals. It was also expected that Ms. Mohallel would come back and share her experience with her colleagues.

Another point was raised about having the Extension Home Economists work in a joint project with the Ministry of Youth where the responsables are eager to have home economists for the training of the young women in rural areas.

Mr. Van Dissel, a visiting Dutch consultant who worked for several years as expert at the department, made the following comments:

- Home Economists in this department have no training to work in rural areas.
- Most of them are married and do not want to leave their homes to reside in the districts or the villages.
- They always claim that they are few to work and villages are big to handle.
- There is a lack of transportation and training facilities.

DeClercq, who is aware of the home economics situation in Egypt replied that, from her experience, all home economists working in that department and graduated from Cairo University had had field training while in college. Mr. Awad, who was not sure of that situation, called on Ms. Mohallel and asked her about that field training. She replied that all of them had the training. Mr. Awad immediately requested a meeting at noon of the same day with all home economists in the department to find out and discuss the field-work problems.

Mrs. Kheir El Din, Supervisor, questioned the reasons why AHEA-IFPP would like to train the home economists. What would the rural people gain out of it and whether it would be an incentive to encourage and compensate the rural people? At that point we clearly repeated the objectives and limits of AHEA-IFPP.

Mr. Awad showed interest in having the home economists trained and he praised the idea of the joint project with the Ministry of Youth. He suggested that DeClercq should attend the meeting taking place the following week between the two Ministries. The purpose is to describe the purpose and objectives of the project to those who will attend the meeting and give comments and discuss points of view.

In the afternoon Brabble and DeClercq went to the College of Home Economics, Helwan University, to meet with Dr. Ensal Nasr, Dean of the College and Dr. Doha El Gidaily, Professor of Home Management. Dr. Nasr stated that the College Board Committee decided to revise and improve the home economics courses in the College. In fact they called for help from three (3) American experts in the fields of Nutrition, Child Development, and Textile and Clothing. They are expecting the experts to arrive in April, 1980.

Dr. Nasr was pleased with the objectives of AHEA-IFPP and is considering the importance of training her students. Dr. El Gidaily confirmed furthermore that family planning and population education should be part of the family management courses. Dr. Nasr talked about the possibility of offering the college facilities for holding conference, workshop or training programs.

Dr. Nasr mentioned that a conference on "The Role of Home Economics on Environment and Peace" is scheduled for April 12, 1980, at the College. She promised to raise the subject and give information on AHEA-IFPP during the conference. She asked us to provide her with materials. Copies of the LINK and IFPP booklet were handed out and an Arabic "Working with Villagers" was sent to her from Cairo. Other materials are to be sent from Washington.

Sunday, March 2

Dr. Brabble departed to Sudan.

Monday, March 3

DeClercq met Mr. A. Abdel Fatah, Director of Population and Development Project of the Egyptian Family Planning Board. He carefully listened to all information given on AHEA-IFPP and what the project has done so far in Egypt. Mr. Abdel Fatah was previously the Director of Training Programs on the Egyptian Family Planning Board and worked closely with several people we met in Cairo. He described their project as follows:

- The project scope covers 12 governorates - 281 Village Council - 1550 villages and served about 7.8 million by the end of December, 1979.
- In 1980, the project will cover, nation wide, 26 governorates all the villages and more than 20 million will be served.
- The Population and Development Project (PDP) is focussing on rural areas which are characterized by high fertility and where the quality of services is low.
- The project aims at improving the performance and managerial ability of all types of workers by training them in all fields of activities.
- The project assumes that it is necessary to increase community-action funds to meet the increasing demand from villages for:
  - a) production services and social activities
  - b) upgrading the standard of services
  - c) encouraging community participation and gaining the confidence of the people by extending some "seed money" in the form of interest-free loans

- The immediate objectives of the project are to:
  - a) reduce birth rate by 1/1000 annually
  - b) slow down migration from rural to urban areas
  - c) improve population characteristics especially in the fields of health, education and women's status
- The project started an intensive program using female rural leaders "Al Raida Al Rifia". They are all between 21-30 years old, married or ready to get married. They have communication skills and understanding of family planning methods.
- This program aims to make the woman:
  - a) economically independent
  - b) encouraged toward more participation in social life
  - c) improve abilities in productive activities like sewing, carpet weaving, and poultry raising
- In order to be more effective those rural leaders should know about all the village problems. Therefore, they refer in their work to and work closely with:
  - a) the head men of the village
  - b) the village medical doctor. They get information on health and sanitation, get printed materials, and get data about women in the village
  - c) contact the social worker
  - d) contact the doctors' team
  - e) contact the women leaders team
- The regular salaries of the above personnel are provided by the government. But to support local efforts and because of the additional work load required for project implementation, the project provides a salary supplement to the above personnel.
- After the exchange in points of view, Mr. Abdel Fatah showed great interest in having the Egyptian Home Economists trained by AHEA-IFPP. He revealed that their wide educational background on many subject matters qualifies them to be one of the important group of trainers in the rural areas.
- Mr. Abdel Fatah concluded that he is considering the importance of AHEA-IFPP assistance and looking forward to receiving technical assistance training programs and training materials. He would like to see more than home economists involved in the training. He mentioned training local women rural leaders, representatives, of active productive women, medical doctors, social workers, teachers, nurses and midwives.
- DeClercq asked Mr. Abdel Fatah to submit to AHEA-IFPP a proposal on his request and handed him out IFPP booklet and copies of the LINK.

Tuesday, March 4

DeClercq met with Dr. Shanawany, Consultant, Population and Family Planning Board, who is actually working on two research studies. The first one is "An Evaluation of the Role of Rural Female Educator Workers in the Population and Development Project". She explained that the promotion of education and communication efforts of the project through home visits is being carried out by rural females who are familiar with traditions and habits of the village and are assigned to work there. Their task is to counsel and advise married women in child-bearing ages on family planning, home economics, household hygiene, and encourage families to participate in developmental projects, community health and child care. They provide contraceptives to practicers, attempt to persuade non-users and drop-outs to adopt family planning practices and records data on home visits.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

1. To determine the level of contribution women are making to the project.
2. To study the characteristics of these women in relation to their job performance in order to identify areas where recruitment can be improved.
3. To study the type of information passed through them to the community in order to assess whether they are meeting the project's needs.
4. To study the opinion of community leaders on the role of these women in order to identify potential areas of modification or improvement.

The second research of Dr. Shanawany is also "An Evaluation of People Participation With Special Emphasis on Women Participation in the Population and Development Project". She explained that the project aims, among other things, to create new job opportunities. Some of these projects might be poultry raising, bee breeding, carpet weaving, sewing, carpentry, dairying etc. These projects are mainly (75%) financed by the people themselves. The (PFPB) activates this community participation by offering seed money in the form of interest-free loans through the Agriculture Credit Bank of the Village. The bank is responsible for doing the feasibility studies of these projects. The seed money plays a very important role in winning people's confidence. It is expected that these economic activities will eventually raise the economic standards of participants, and will assist in improving the quality of life in the villages and yield a revenue which will be used to cover the expenses of some services and social activities. Any project undertaken must be based on the capability of local leadership to manage it. In the absence of such capability, the first task of the PDP is to help its creation through training and proper identification of potential leaders-managers. Special emphasis is given to women training and employment. Vocational training will raise the standard of women's skills and make them more ambitious and more active in searching for better job opportunities in better types of employment. Women's employment in non-agricultural chores will create direct conflict between a woman's desire to retain her new job and her ability to have many children and care for them.

The objectives of that research are:

1. To have clear understanding of the dynamics of people participation in community development project.
2. To know the factors promoting or inhibiting participation of women in community development projects.
3. To find indicators about how to enhance women participation in the project.
4. To find indicators on how to increase the capacity of local leaders to control and guide development and family planning activities.

Dr. Shanawany concluded that the results of those two (2) evaluation studies will help in future women involvement in the project and will indicate areas needed for training emphasis. Dr. Shanawany said that she will join Mr. Adel Fatah in collaborating with AHEA-IFPP and suggested to also meet with Mr. Samir El Hagraay, Director of Training and Population Education at the Family and Population Board.

Later, DeClercq went to the Ministry of Agriculture, Extension of Youth and the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Ahmad Awad, Director of Extension Department, Mrs. Fatima Kheir El Din, Supervisor, and Mrs. Atigat Bedeir, Director of Home Economics Department, and Mr. Nabil, Agriculture Extension, represented the Ministry. Also present, were five (5) delegations representing five (5) governorates.

- Mr. Awad presided over the meeting and after introducing Dr. DeClercq as a guest representing AHEA-IFPP, he started by summarizing what was developed in the last couple of meetings they had jointly with the Ministry of Youth.

Mr. Awad stated that the goal of those meetings is to develop youth programs through a joint project between the two ministries. To test the program they chose five (5) governorates close to the Cairo area. These youth centers will be activated in each governorate. One home economist and one agriculture extension worker will be appointed in each center. The main goal is to reach the youth and give them training in different areas of rural development including health, sanitation, child care, family planning, and population education. The main subjects to be developed and introduced are: food technology (jam, cheese, tomato paste), marketing product, rabbit breeding, cow breeding and milking, beef product, arts and crafts. The project has to have productive goals. For that purpose audio-visuals and movies will be used to show the young people the latest developments in different countries of the world.

- Mr. Awad asked Dr. DeClercq to introduce the AHEA-IFPP objectives which she explained in detail as well as answered several questions raised. They were mostly interested in the training program. Several of them asked for incentives or travel abroad.
- After that every delegation gave its report on the area and villages chosen. They gave the list of names of extension workers. They described the availability of equipments and the kind of program fitting each area.

- They all concluded that the training program in youth centers should have the first priority and planned to introduce later on those kinds of production programs into the houses.
- In summary, the project has two purposes:
  1. education
  2. production
- Mr. Van Dissel (Dutch expert) who was also present at the meeting, was asked for equipment and service-training program for agriculture extension workers. He replied that he can't see any problem concerning the development of training programs in the youth centers.

After the meeting was over Mr. Awad met with Mrs. Khalifa, Mrs. Kheir El Din, Mrs. Bedeir, and Dr. DeClercq. It was concluded that a rural development project is very important to take place in rural youth centers in five (5) governorates as a first step of a bigger nation-wide project. For immediate execution it was decided that:

1. Mrs. Khalifa, Mrs. Keir El Din, and Mrs. Bedeir, will start the same week visiting the villages chosen in the five (5) governorates to see what is needed for each of them.
2. Plan a time table for training program.
3. Designate the working team for each governorate.
  - Designate the team for development of the rural center.
  - Design a weekly report
  - Design a follow-up supervision
4. Plan for evaluation meetings every 3 months.
5. Notify AHEA-IFPP for needed training.
6. Requesting technical assistance and materials.
7. Mrs. Khalifa and Mrs. Kheir El Din will jointly write and submit a proposal to AHEA-IFPP.

From these DeClercq went to see Mr. Samir El Hagrasy, Director of Training and Population Education, at the Population and Family Planning Board. After listening to the objectives and purpose of AHEA-IFPP, Mr. El Hagrasy described his program. He is directing a nation-wide training plan. This plan covers the training section of all fourteen (14) Ministries which includes Ministry of Health, Youth, Education, Social Security, Agriculture, Power and Labor, Industry, Social Affairs, etc...

The purpose of the project is to:

1. Improve the health level in general.
2. Provide better quality of family planning services.

- Mr. El Harasy advises and coordinates the work between all the ministries.
- Each ministry has a family planning delegation represented at the Board. Each delegation meets frequently with Mr. El Hagrasy to report on the progress and the specific needs of the ministry.
- Through the delegation each ministry receives advice, information, and orientation for specific needs, and for coordination and cooperation with other ministries.
- The Board delivers information services and practical training. It also provides facilities for workshops, group discussion, case study, field testing, and training.
- Mr. El Hagrasy acknowledged the importance of AHEA-IFPP training study, field testing, and training.
- Mr. El Hagrasy acknowledged the importance of AHEA-IFPP training program and showed readiness to cooperate with the project whenever needed.

#### CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

After those several meetings and discussions it is expected that:

1. Under the supervision of Mr. Ahmed Awad, Director of Extension Program, Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Kheir El Din and Mrs. Klalifa will submit a joint proposal to AHEA-IFPP for a training of trainers program for home economists at urban level and provinces.
2. Mr. Abdel Fatah, Director of Population and Development Project, will also request a home economics training of trainers program at the rural level.
3. Mrs. E. Elwy will develop a proposal for family planning integration into home economics curriculae.
4. Mrs. El Gidaily will attend AHEA-IFPP Pre-Congress Workshop in the Philippines in order to get acquainted and involved in the project.
5. AHEA project is granted the collaboration of the Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning in Alexandria and the use of their facilities for training programs.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the consultation visits and the expected outcome it is concluded that:

1. There is a lot of interest of integrating family planning in Egypt.
2. Persons and organizations are willing to get involved.
3. Concrete actions and results will not be obtained unless there is active motivation.

Therefore, it is recommended:

1. To appoint a local coordinator to the project who should be responsible to:
  - a) Submit a monthly report of activities to AHEA-IFPP
  - b) Coordinate the work between the Egyptian Home Economists
  - c) Plan local meetings
  - d) Inform AHEA-IFPP on local events concerning family planning
2. Support local efforts and because of the additional work load required for project implementation it is suggested that the project provides an honorarium to the major personnel who will plan and execute the work.

It was requested (from local people) in several indirect ways what was the award or incentive behind getting involved or do extra work for the project. It is apparent that other foreign agencies are spending a lot of money to pay local staff full salaries, or top-up salaries as incentive.

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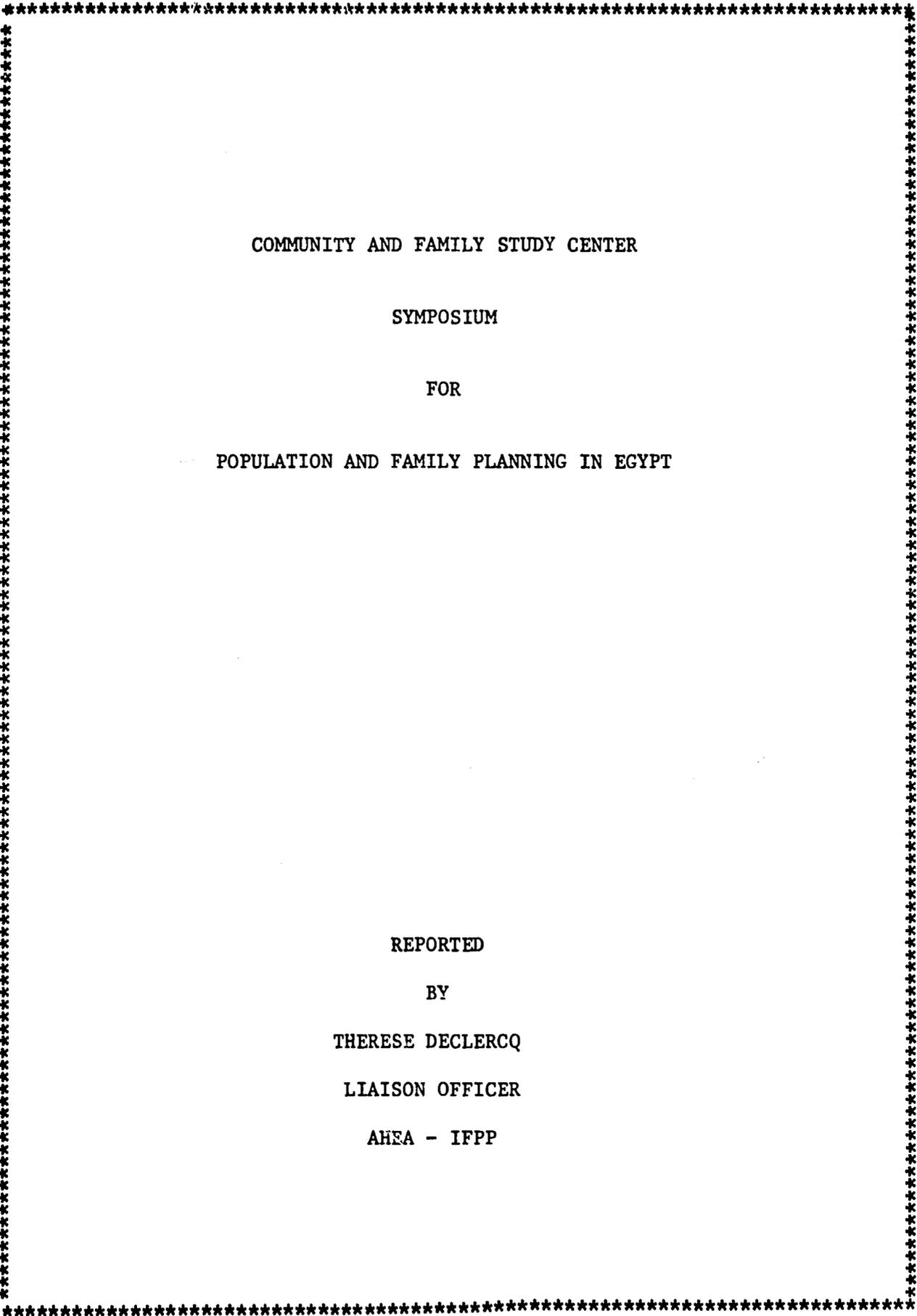
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15'



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY STUDY CENTER

SYMPOSIUM

FOR

POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN EGYPT

REPORTED

BY

THERESE DECLERCQ

LIAISON OFFICER

AHEA - IFPP

This symposium was organized and sponsored jointly by the Egyptian State Information Service and the Social Development Center, University of Chicago. Here are extracts of the most important lectures.

- The opening session opened with the address of Mr. Mohammad Safwat El Sherif, Chairman of the State Information Service, who pointed out the honour of having the First Lady of Egypt, Mrs. Jehan El Sadat inaugurate the symposium.
- He said that the symposium was being held at the start of a new state of information and social work, both coordinated and comprehensive, in the field of population and family planning with a view to solving one of the most serious problems facing the Egyptian people. This problem was the disparity between the increase in population and the increase in the national revenue and production. He noted that the basis of this new stage of work in the field of population and family planning was to coordinate, at the national level, between the concerned authorities both official and public, in the information, health, social and development departments.
- He made particular emphasis on coordination between the various mass media on the one hand and information work and health services on the other.
- He pointed out that the State Information Service was playing a new role, namely making use of the capacities and expertise of the employees of the State Information Service. The Service had also established local information centers throughout Egypt to service the community and help solve social problems.

Mr. Donald Brown, Director of the U. S. International Development Agency in Egypt, addressing the symposium pointed out the solutions to the population increase in Egypt and its enormous pressure on the resources of the country. He said that their main task was to find the means of producing solutions for these problems in Egypt. Egypt's future hinged on population pressure and the need to check them in order to provide the citizens with social services and afford the Egyptian mother enough time to look after her family. In this manner the economic standard of the society would be improved.

- He underlined the importance of the SIS entry in the field and welcomed the vast contribution of scientists in search of practical solutions to the problem.

Dr. Aziz Al Bendari, Chairman of the Population and Family Planning Board described the Symposium as a link in an uninterrupted chain of Egypt's concern with the problem on all official, political and popular levels. It also indicated the major role that can be assumed by the mass media with its multiple channels and methods in coping with the problem on the basis of a national information policy in the field of population and family planning in Egypt.

Dr. Amal Osman, the Minister of Social Affairs, said the mainspring of the problem was determined by the relationship between materials resources on one hand and human resources on the other. The efforts exerted on the official

and popular levels to solve the population problem within a national plan for socio-economic development in Egypt had set as a goal the achievement of such equilibrium with emphasis on the importance of consolidating family planning.

- She referred to the importance of having a sound community which could be employed effectively in development projects. This could only be accomplished by raising the specific value of the individual who is the target of development.
- Dr. Osman also referred to the important role of information and its impact on the population, she stressed the importance of working out a scientifically-based information strategy taking full cognizance of all these elements involved.
- In conclusion she said to bridge the gap between theory and practice, education and information should develop the mass media in order to change individual and procreative behaviour, and direct it towards using family planning services in a bid to raise its social and economic capabilities.

Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, Minister of Health, President of the Supreme Council for Population and Family Planning, said that the population problem in Egypt was the most topical question as it threatened a health, economic and social explosion. He noted that the major problem facing the authorities from the point of view of the media, was to be acquainted with the size of the problem, its dimensions and dangers. For this to be effective he said, it was necessary to convince all citizens, men and women, that the solution was possible.

- He specified three fields of action for tackling the population problem, the first being family planning; the second, population distribution in the new communities; and the third, the improvement of population characteristics.

The First Lady, Mrs. Jehan El Sadat, said that the problem was a vital national problem which must be settled decisively in a calculated scientific manner in order to know the real rate of population growth in Egypt, and to create a balance between this growth and the rate of development. She added that the sound and decisive settlement of the problem in any society could only be achieved through comprehensive development.

- She referred to a future stage in which the people should be made aware of the population problem and convinced of family planning in Egypt, and the necessity of a national policy in the light of the experiences gained in the past stages. She further stated that the aim of all this was to make the Egyptian people aware of the real dimensions of their problem in Egypt and the necessity of mounting a concerted action at the social and popular levels.
- She pointed out that action in confronting the population problem was two-pronged - the first involved scientific, information-planned and coordinated action at the national level, while the second consisted of providing the necessary health services in the field.

In another session Dr. Gamal Askar, Head of the Central Authority for General Mobilization and Statistics, said the problem of population explosion appeared in Egypt in the aftermath of the Second World War as a direct consequence of the speedy and considerable decrease in the mortality rate. Such decrease came as a result of medical progress, improvement of hygiene, use of antibiotics, and control of many diseases and epidemics. Yet no corresponding reduction in birth rates was noted. The period from 1966 to 1972 witnessed a remarkable decrease in birth rates, yet some interrelated events were apparently responsible for it, such as the initiation of family planning in 1915, the 1967 war, the subsequent general mobilization, the war of attrition, and preparations for the October, 1973, war. In the aftermath of wars a rise in birth rates is usually noted as a result of the consummation of delayed marriages. The rate jumped from 35.7 to 38.7 per thousand in 1978.

- He added that social development helps to provide better health care for mothers and children, and develops a desire to space out pregnancies, which certainly would effect birth rates. The same would be achieved by raising the educational standard, particularly of women, and stepping up their economic activity.
- As a result of sustained efforts exerted by individuals seeking to improve their standards of living and incomes the momentum of migration from the village to the city grew in proportion and subsequently led to a great strain on public services in the city.

On Population Distribution in Egypt, Dr. Mohamed Sobhy Abdel Hakin, Vice President, Cairo University, said that the population problem in Egypt is definitely the primary problem from which spring all other social and economic problems. There is also the regional aspect which is related to the pattern of population distribution and density as well as the redistribution of the population.

- Most population forecasts confirm that by the year 2000, Egypt's population will range between 60 and 70 million according to various assumptions. Assuming that Egypt's growing population will remain concentrated on the limited area around the narrow valley of the Nile, what will the situation be like by the end of the present century? Therefore, to deal successfully with the population problem it is important to curb the population growth and to redistribute the population so as to achieve a relative balance and to check the glaring disparity in the pattern of distribution.
  1. Development of the desert so as to create work opportunities in the region.
  2. Building new industrial cities after selecting their sites on sound scientific bases.
  3. Proceeding space in comprehensive regional planning for the various regions.
- All these factors combined are intended to create a balanced development in the various provinces so as to control the factors which account for the present donor - recipient situation and consequently to rationalize internal migration.

Dr. Dennis DeTray, Economist from the Rand Corporation, talked on "An Economist's Perspective on the Role of Population Growth in Economic Development." He referred to previous research written on the subject then he explained that with respect to policymakers and planners the information that we are beginning to accumulate about the ability of poor people in developing countries to make the best of the circumstances within which they must survive is strong confirmation of what he likes to call "the smart peasant" model of economic development. There is a growing body of economic and anthropological literature which supports the contention that poor people in developing countries do a remarkably effective job of looking after themselves. But if you stop for a moment and think about it a good many development policies are based on the premise that people are not making the best use of the resources at their disposal. Based on what he believes he knows about the behaviour of people living in countries like Egypt, he would establish at least two rules to guide policymakers. There rules would be:

1. That governments are always right to improve the knowledge and decision making of their people and to increase the set of choices their people face but
  2. that attempts to move beyond this information dissemination role must be approached with great caution and much introspection as these attempts frequently involve the assumption that government agencies know more about individual welfare than individuals themselves know.
- per capita income is likely to be improved if population growth rates can be reduced but only if concomitant and parallel development occurs in other sectors of the economy. In particular there must be some new outlet some improvement in the returns that parents and children can receive when parents invest more in each child. Without these parallel developments the forces that result from the quality side of the fertility equation may work against policies that attempt unilaterally to reduce population growth and will be augmented by policies aimed at increasing per capita income through increased returns to investments in human capital.
  - Although family planning inputs will play an important role in increasing the welfare of current Egyptian couples and future generations more is needed. For example improved transportation systems may be required to allow rural peasants access to markets for schooling and skills found in more urbanized areas or small scale industry may have to be encouraged rather than tested as a second class citizen because such industry acts as a natural pull for better educated workers, has low physical capital requirement and is able to locate with great geographic dispersion.

Dr. Halim Greiss, Advisor, Ministry of Education, gave a talk on "Population Education in Egypt for the Coming Generation - Accomplishments and Needs for the Future." He said that improving relations between population and resources is the responsibility of education in its broader sense.

- It was agreed that population education should be included in all stages and types of education. That present curriculae should comprise population and family concepts. That text books should be enriched with suitable subjects. That teachers should undergo intensive training enabling them to cope with their new responsibilities and that a clear concept should be set for this type of education.
- It is clear that the responsibilities for population education is not restricted to imparting information and knowledge. It should go beyond that to the formation of habits of mind and behavioural skills affecting the life of the individual, the family, the society and the nation. Thus the method of performance has become exceedingly important.
- For future prospects the following plan of actions was set:
  - Reviewing the curriculae and text books of general education so as to improve upon them and enrich them through methods of evaluation.
  - Introducing population education in the curriculae of technical and adult education.
  - Coordinating and organizing cooperation between the Ministry and the media.
  - Expanding the production of educational films, charts, and slides.
  - Expanding the publication of teacher's guides, suitable reference books and the quarterly magazine.
  - Introducing and expanding population education as part of the curriculae of graduate teachers' training institutes.
  - Expanding the programmes of training by correspondence having proved to be so effective.
  - Procuring more grants and scholarships so as to train a cadre of experts and leaders.
  - Encouraging scientific research in the fields that serve population education, especially in the fields related to defining the appropriate concept for every stage, methods of education, appropriate systems of education and methods of evaluation.

Dr. Donald Bogue, University of Chicago, talked on the "Demographic Theories of the Relationship Between Population Growth and Social and Economic Development." He argued that on the basis of recent research evidence, the major cause of the recent decline in fertility in less developed countries between 1968 and 1975 was the amount of effort placed upon family planning programs. However, he implied that when intensive family planning efforts are applied simultaneously with social development efforts, spectacular results in fertility decline can be accomplished.

- The process of social and economic change are causing large families to be less and less advantageous, and more and more of a handicap. The aspirations and ambitions of the public, including the rural folk, have risen. The incompatibility between large families and these changed values is increasing yearly. These ambitions and values involve considerations such as the following.
  - .. Concern for the health of mothers
  - Concern for survival of children
  - Concern for nutrition, growth and development of children
  - Aspirations for a higher standard of living
  - Discontent with overcrowding and discomfort of housing
  - Decreasing economic value of children
    1. Demand that children be educated
    2. Condemnation of child labor as exploitation
    3. Mechanization and technical progress in production.
  - Concern for the long-term future, both for one's children and for the community and nation.
- He further explained that when a nation which has a population problem fails to reduce fertility, this approach would not place the blame upon the peasant but upon the national leadership. The explanations may lie in the following:
  - The public may have been given insufficient information upon which to base decisions about family size.
  - The quality and quantity of family planning service may be seriously deficient.
  - The local people may not be involved in the program.
  - Leaders may be hiding the whole truth from the public about the long-term dangers of continued growth, for policy reasons.