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*Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World  
Beirut University College*

*Basic Living Skills Program - Narrative Report  
July - December 1985*

*The present report is the final account for the Basic Living Skills Program (BLSP) representing the period between July through December, 1985. The last six months in Lebanon have been the most difficult the country has lived through since the beginning of the troubles ten years ago. Despite the numerous outbreaks of violence; closure of roads between East and West Beirut; closure of Beirut International Airport; electricity cuts - which paralyzed many sectors in the country; difficulties in communications: post, telephones and telexes, the Institute, its staff, the experts working with us, in writing, editing and designing, the printers, the photographers, Star Stationary, the cardboard factory, and the travel agents, were able to surmount all problems and complete successfully the Basic Living Skills Program.*

*The material is contained in 500 boxes (Kits). Each Kit includes 10 Jackets. Eight Jackets contain lesson plans on the topics mentioned below, one contains a set of 88 slides and another contains the Teacher's Guide.*

There are 140 lesson plans and 354 illustrations on the following topics distributed as follows:

1. Health	33
2. Family Planning	8
3. Environment	20
4. Nutrition	19
5. Child Care	26
6. Home Management	12
7. Civic Education	9
8. Legal Rights	13

4/140

Also included in the Kit are 3 health charts in several copies for distribution to participants.

The original idea was to have each topic in a different color to differentiate easily between one topic and another. However, due to the situation in the country, the only colors available were: blue, green, red and brown. It was decided to have the Jackets in sets of four colors and to insert colored stripes on the Jackets to make the distinction between the different units.

It is noteworthy to mention here that all the material for the Kit such as boxes, jackets, stripes, stickers, dividers, were all designed and ordered by the Institute, since things needed were not available on the market. We are enclosing a colored photograph of the Kit.

The most tedious job was the sorting out of materials to place in jackets. This has been a time consuming task, since it had to be done manually.

At the completion of the project an exhibition and press conference were organized, workshops started and plans for a regional conference were underway.

7

I. Exhibition and Press Conference

The Basic Living Skills Exhibition and Press Conference were held on November 9 and 10, 1985 at the Beirut University College.

The different units, lessons, card game, posters, charts, flannel graphs, the health calendar, slides, experimental tapes were all displayed. Staff members were present to explain and demonstrate the use of the material.

Invitation cards were printed and distributed by hand to 500 invitees. National and International Organizations concerned were invited as well as the press, the media and the Beirut University College family. USAID was represented by Mr. Kamal Farhat. A press release, with a synopsis of the Basic Living Skills Program was prepared and distributed to all the local newspapers (copy in Arabic attached). The Lebanese Television was present and a short interview was given by the Director of the Institute, which was shown during the local news on the same day.

A word of welcome to the invitees was given by Dr. Irene Faffler, Dean of Beirut University College. The exhibition was well covered by the press, attached are also some newspaper clippings. The national and international organizations that were able to attend the exhibition were impressed and most of those present ordered sets. The Institute has since received many visits from organizations, who were unable to attend, to study the material. Orders are coming in daily and organizations encouraged to take one set as a sample will order more.

II. Basic Living Skills Workshops

Workshops were held for social workers from organizations who acquired the Basic Living Skills Program materials. These sessions included training and demonstration in the use of the material. The objectives and philosophy of action were thoroughly explained. Participants were given a chance to study the material in general and discuss it with the trainers. The trainees were given the opportunity to take an active part by actually presenting different lessons using a variety of teaching techniques that were introduced to them. They were also instructed in the skills of assessing need and evaluating their work using the guidelines discussed in the teacher's manual. Emphasis was placed on the importance of being sensitive to the community's needs and in being flexible in presenting the program.

The following workshops have taken place to-date:

1. St. Joseph School of Nursing - November 1985  
3rd year nursing students.
2. St. Joseph School of Nursing - Midwives. November 1985
3. Individual organizations who November 1985  
requested training.
4. American University of Beirut, December 1985  
School of Nursing -  
3rd year nursing students.
5. Middle East Council of Churches January 1986
6. Center for Mother and Child Care January 1986
7. Office for Social Development (ODS) February 1986  
(Government Organization)
8. Association for the Protection of February 1986  
Children

The following workshops are scheduled to be completed before the end of June 1986:

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Workshop Scheduled</u>
1. UNRWA	March 1986
2. Middle East Council of Churches - Saida	March 1986
3. The Makassed School of Nursing	March 1986
4. Center for Integrated Services, (Borj Barajneh)	March 1986
5. Center for Integrated Services, (Ghobairi)	March 1986
6. Les Soeurs Antonine	April 1986
7. Association for Social Development	April 1986
8. The Makassed School - Saida	April 1986
9. Ministry of Education - Bahrain	April/May 1986
10. Association for Civic Administration	May 1986
11. Palestinian Centers (UNICEF)	May 1986
12. The Social Movement	May 1986
13. Les Soeurs de Charite	May 1986
14. Lebanese Family Planning Association	May 1986
15. Health Education Center - AUB	May 1986
16. The Lebanese Red Cross	June 1986
17. YWCA	June 1986
18. Ministry of Artisans and Social Affairs, Morocco	June 1986
19. The St. Joseph School of Nursing together with INSAW have also coordinated training for several workshops to be held in Beirut, Jounieh, Jbeil, Tripoli, Zahle, Baalbeck, Saida, Akkar. These towns will cover the areas North, South, East and West of Lebanon.	

III. Basic Living Skills Regional Conference

Contacts for a Regional Conference to introduce the Basic Living Skills Program to the other Arab countries were made by telex because of the postal problems in Lebanon and the time factor. Invitations were extended to Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Work, UNICEF Regional Office, AGFUND, Arab Women's Organizations, Arab League.

The Conference was held on December 10, 11 and 12, 1985 at the Ledra Hotel in Nicosia - Cyprus. Upon the invitation by the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, sixteen participants, representing six Arab countries and two regional organizations, namely AGFUND and UNICEF, as well as a delegate from The Arab Women's Federation, attended the meeting. A list of names and organizations is attached.

The main objective of the conference was to introduce the Basic Living Skills Program to the various organizations and to discuss its relevance, use and distribution in the Arab countries as well as to exchange information on literacy and adult education programs in other Arab countries.

The Three-day conference was held in a large hall where all the materials were displayed to make it easily accessible at all times to the participants. Sessions were held daily from 8:00 in the morning to 12:30 noon and from 5:00 in the afternoon to 8:00 in the evening. The program in Arabic is attached to this report and below is a summary of the day's activities:

6

Tuesday - December 10, 1985

Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr welcomed the participants and after a brief introduction of the Institute, its goals and activities, spoke at length about the Basic Living Skills Program and its objectives and possible use with an overview of the different stages it went through from its inception to the last stages of production.

Miss Nada Khuri and Miss Rima Khalifeh who both collaborated with Dr. Abu Nasr in producing the Basic Living Skills program during the last three years, in turn presented their experiences during the final phase of the program during which the materials were tested, evaluated and produced. At the request of the participants a live demonstration of a sample lesson was presented in which the participants acted as the students.

In the afternoon session, samples from the audio-visual materials were presented such as card games which instruct how to plan a well-balanced meal, a series of slides covering different topics, and experimental video tapes portraying some interesting episodes.

Wednesday - December 11, 1985

The morning session was dedicated to country presentations in which participants gave a brief recount of the activities in their respective countries or agencies in the field of literacy programs and female education.

In the afternoon the participants were requested to examine thoroughly the materials exhibited and to evaluate and study its relevance to their respective programs.



Thursday - December 12, 1985

The morning session was dedicated to the discussion of the final recommendations. Three participants volunteered to meet in the afternoon to write down the recommendations in their final form. These were in turn presented to all the participants during the evening session for approval.

During the three-day conference the participants, who were highly impressed with the project, discussed at length, the following points before incorporating them in the final recommendations:

- The significant value of the materials for community development programs, especially those for women;
- The possibility of adapting the materials (text and illustrations) to the different Arab countries as a few illustrations were not applicable in certain countries and some terms used were not familiar to others;
- The tremendous need for the preparation of Reading Materials for the new literates to avoid their going back into illiteracy, and the wealth of ideas in the program for such a move;
- The impact the program would have if it were to be adapted to radio, television and film;
- The possibility of expanding the teacher's guide to include specific instruction for studying "a" community and finding out its specific needs before introducing the program;
- The possibility of cooperation between the Institute and the organizations dealing with Continuing Education for Women.

Following is a summary of the most important recommendations that emerged from these discussions:

8

1. To carry out regional campaigns to introduce the Basic Living Skills Program in different Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa.
2. To hold seminars to introduce the program on a local level. Each participant will do that in her own country and urge organizations and officials in charge to take action and make use of the Basic Living Skills materials and methods in their own programs.
3. The Institute is to offer training in the use of the materials for centers who will implement the program.
4. To adapt the materials to the local situation by the Institute if this cannot be done by the specific country.
5. To consider using the MASS MEDIA, namely: film, video and television to make it accessible to a larger audience.
6. To produce silent films with scripts adaptable to the different Arab countries to avoid the problem of dialects.
7. To prepare booklets, a magazine or newsletter for new literates based on the material.
8. To incorporate some of the materials in the school curricula on all levels.
9. To coordinate with developmental organizations and institutions to exchange material and documents related to Arab women in order to disseminate and exchange information and provide document service on issues concerning women.
10. To expand the teacher's guide to include specific instructions for assessing the needs of the community.

The delegates who attended the Regional Conference ordered BLSP sets and inquired about the possibility of adapting and training those organizations who will be implementing the program in their respective countries.

IV. Basic Living Skills Promotion

Contacts were made with WHO, the Lebanese Ministry of Health, UNICEF, Save the Children Federation, Redda Barnen, Office of Development Services (Government Organization), as well as private schools, institutes and women's organizations to help in the distribution of the materials and the promotion of the program in Lebanon.

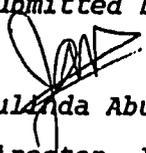
The Institute will be taking part in the activities for the "Child's Week" and will exhibit the BLSP materials.

Encouraged by the response from the delegates of the regional conference, the Director of the Institute held a promotion campaign in Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain and the Emirates. She has been invited by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to discuss possible use of the BLSP in their respective countries.

Conclusion

The impression we got from the requests for workshops and Basic Living Skills material and the feedback we are getting from those who have already acquired sets and are using the material is extremely promising. The program has been successfully launched in Lebanon and is being sought after by the rest of the Arab countries. It is felt by those who were introduced to it that the BLSP meets the social literacy needs of women, and the demand for materials in community development and Continuing Education programs.

Submitted by

  
Julinda Abu Nasr, Ph.D.

Director, Institute for Women's  
Studies in the Arab World

Beirut, February 28, 1986

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Encl.