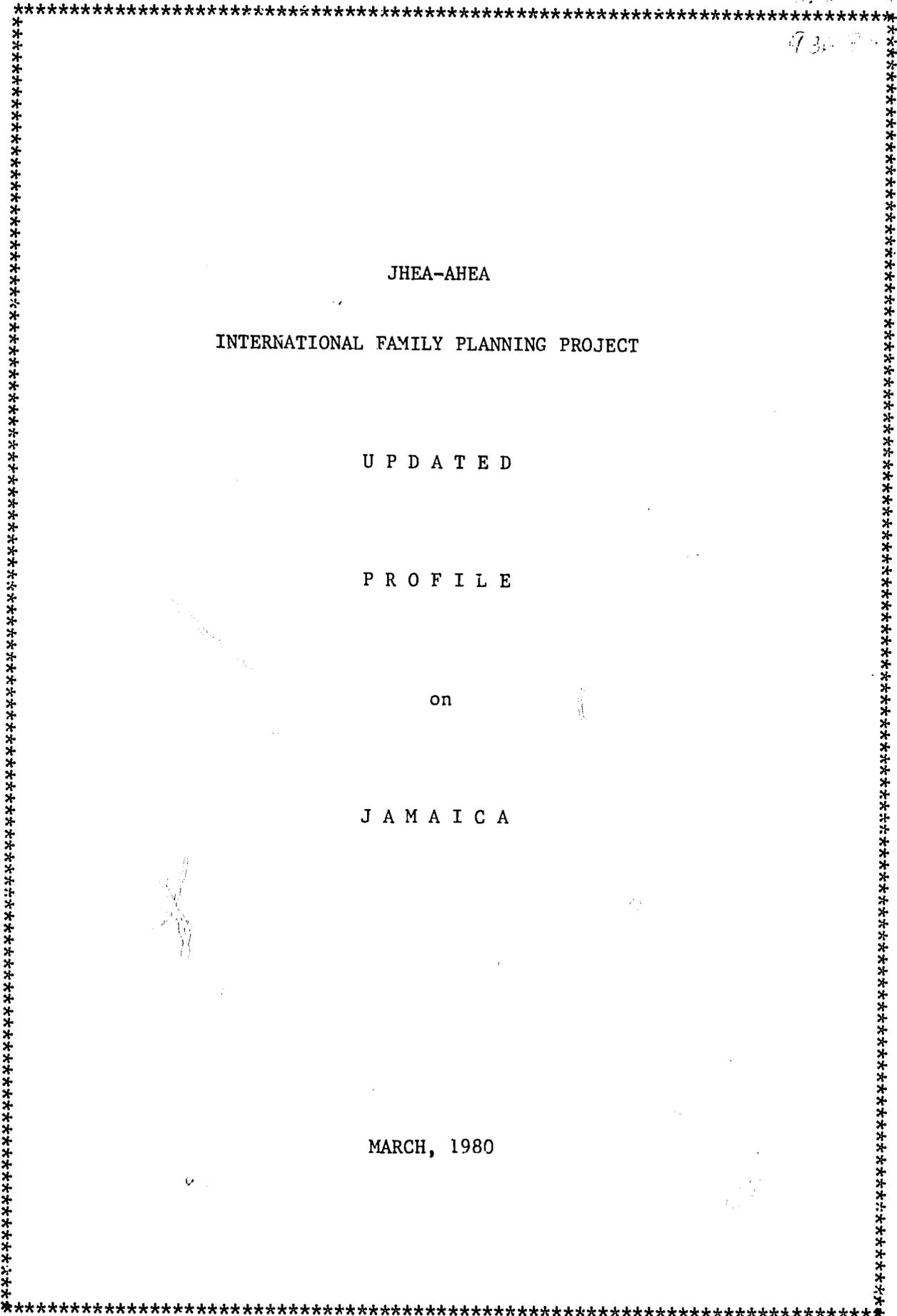


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JHEA-AHEA
INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT

U P D A T E D

P R O F I L E

on

J A M A I C A

MARCH, 1980

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THE JAMAICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
AND ITS
FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

The Jamaican Home Economics Association has its members in formal and in non-formal institutions, etc.

Ministry of Agriculture - Extension Service
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Social Security
Community Development Officers
Private Enterprise

The Association operates a number of programme committees of which the Family Planning Committee is one component.

FAMILY PLANNING COMMITTEE - has as its main function the promotion of family life education in collaboration with the American Home Economics Association (AHEA). This partnership started in 1979 when Dr. Thelma Stewart was invited to the Chapel Hill Conference to help in finding out and in formulating new dimensions in Home Economics. She was the representative of Jamaica. The long term aim was to integrate family planning into home economics.

The teaching of family life education in the teachers' colleges and secondary schools was given a great fillip in 1973, when as a follow-up of the Chapel Hill Conference, five home economists from the teacher training colleges were invited by the AHEA to attend a Home Economics International Family Planning Workshop in Taiwan. These lecturers were able to return to Jamaica with renewed vigour, to integrate the family planning concepts into their home economics programmes.

The next step was the formation of a planning committee consisting of Thelma Stewart, Alma Smith and Ivy White, (the last two being participants in the Taiwan Workshop as a nucleus, with other representatives from the Ministry of Education, Jamaican Home Economics Association, secondary schools, Public Health and the National Family Planning Board, the total number being nine with power to co-opt.

The work of this Planning Committee to date includes:

1. A Country Survey

In October, 1973, the AHEA in conjunction with the JHEA and Family Planning Committees conducted a three week country survey in Jamaica. Recommendations dealing with the following aspects of the programme were made as follows:

- (a) Co-ordination - that all agencies dealing with family planning be co-ordinated at the national level.

- (b) Curriculum - family life education be established as a part of the curriculum within home economics.
- (c) Community Development - that there was need to make communities aware of the need for a programme of family life education in the schools.
- (d) Professional Development - that there is need for training both at the University of the West Indies and abroad.

Some of these recommendations have been implemented e.g. the home economics curricula in grades 10 and 11 have been widened to include family life education.

The syllabuses of the teacher training colleges were re-written in 1977. There is now a common syllabus, one section of which is called Family Life Education.

2. Seminars & Courses

- 1974 - Seminar for principals and home economics teachers in secondary schools at Mico
- 1974 - A seven-day workshop at CAST in June. Participants were teachers, training college students, extension officers. This was sponsored by the Ministry of Education and the JHEA. Dr. Eloise Murray from AHEA attended as consultant. Two observers from Trinidad and one from Barbados were also present.

1974 & 1975 - Two members of the planning committee helped abroad to compile a source book of materials from teachers.

Later, two members of the present day care programme in the Ministry of Social Security were invited to the USA to help in the development of teaching materials for extension workers, and in field testing in Jamaica.

- 1976 - As evaluation team from AID visited Jamaica. As a result of the visit, Jamaica, one of the eight countries visited, qualified as a Tier I Country, emphasis country, one doing good work, and so qualified for the full range of project support available.
- 1979 - In March, Jamaica was represented at a planning meeting in Washington at the AHEA Office, where the aims of the Project for the next five years were formulated, and members were asked to present 5 year plans from 1979 - 83. Since then a series of seminars have been held, some of which are:
 - (a) Shortwood Teachers College, July 1978, for interns. Emphasis was placed on teenage pregnancies and what young teachers could do to help the children in their schools. The concept was "YOUTH CAN REACH YOUTH"

- (b) Mico Hostel, July 1979, for young teachers and others involved in home economics. Dr. Barbara Holt from AFEA served as consultant, and the Regional Assistant Director of the International Family Planning Project of the AHEA attended. Prototype lessons were prepared by the participants.
- (c) Sheraton Hotel, August, 1979, a Regional Workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region was held. It was sponsored by AHEA and JHEA was host to the members.
- (d) Mini Workshops held in Mandeville, Malvern, Ocho Rios and Port Maria for the development of prototype lessons. The aim was to include family planning concepts in every area of home economics -- clothing, nutrition, child care, etc.

FAMILY PLANNING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The activities of this organization fall in the non-formal grouping. The beginning of the home economics programme dates back to 1967. In the initial stages programme content focussed on the areas of home economics only. Education in family planning passed through a number of steps in the process of becoming an integral part of the programme.

Step 1

This involved an AWARENESS programme. Staff training in family planning was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Step 2

Also an AWARENESS programme. Staff training was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Step 3

Knowledge and Skill Training. This was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the National Family Planning Board.

Step 4

Integration of Family Planning into Home Economics. This involved in-depth training of staff by a consultant from Washington, Miss Bonnie Birker, under the leadership of Dr. Betty Brabble who visited with the JHEA in January of 1979. This workshop was sponsored by AHEA in collaboration with JHEA and Ministry of Agriculture. This involved the "WORKING WITH VILLAGERS" Kit, and the development of stories, socio-drama, songs, games and other visual aids appropriate for the teaching of family planning.

Step 5

Formulation of follow-up plans and programmes to be funded by AHEA as a part of the 5 year plan, and US AID (in the pipe line)

Programme Purpose

To provide an educational and advisory service to our clientele, rural families, particularly women and girls in very remote areas, and act as a liaison between the technically trained family planning officers, through close collaboration, thus reaching large groups of individuals.

Staffing

This programme is implemented by the following:

- 4 regional home economics supervisors
- 30 home economics officers operating from 13 parishes
- 1 programme co-ordinator who monitors the programme

Programme Implementation

This is done through 3 stages, viz:

1. Residential training
2. Group training
3. Individual training

Programme Content

Since family planning is integrated into home economics, the focus is on management in the home as it relates to the quality of life that all so earnestly desire and seek.

Programme Content in the Colleges

Emphasis is placed on the following:

Personal development of the self image

- Personality Development
- The Family
- Socialization
- Responsible Parenthood
- Contraceptive Methods