6980388-(13)
PD-AAG-690-E1

JEFFALYN JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Management and Organization Specialists

A F R I C A N W O M E N I N D E V E L O P M E N T

8P

INCOME PRODUCING FEASIBILITY STUDY

EVALUATION REPORT

AID No. 698-0388.8

Two Skyline Plaza, Suite 1210
5203 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041
(703) 578-4633

Upper Volta: Feasibility Study (698-0388.8)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In March, 1977, AID/Upper Volta provided $65,000 to the government of Upper Volta to conduct a preliminary socio-economic study examining the role of women in the Sahel. The survey was to identify factors which could stimulate or hinder the training of women in preparation for the implementation of a proposed Non-Formal Education project entitled, "Training of Women in the Sahel". The study was conducted by the Voltaic Scientific Research Center (Centre Voltaique de Recherche Scientifique - CVRS) and was scheduled to be conducted over a 10-month period, to be concluded and submitted to AID by April, 1978. Due to a series of delays involved in executing the study, it did not arrive at the AID office in Ouagadougou until January, 1980, one and a half years after the completion deadline. By that time, the Training fo Women in the Sahel Project had been designed, funded, and partially implemented and, therefore, did not benefit from the findings of the study. At present, the study is being examined by an AID anthropologist in Upper Volta to determine whether the wealth of information it contained will be of any potential use to ongoing or future Women in Development Projects.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

Within the broader context of identifying factors which could stimulate or hinder the training of women for non-formal education in the Sahel, the specific purposes of the project were as follows:

- to identify factors which would provide basic criteria for overall design of the project;
- to identify indicators for the selection of project authorities and the necessary personnel qualifications and training;
- identify potential constraints to project implementation and strategies for overcoming them; and, identify villages most likely to be receptive to the project.

The study provides a thorough overview of the social and economic roles of women of the different ethnic groups of the Sahel, emphasizing income-generating activities and daily information on which to base the design of non-formal education projects and rural projects. It also provides an assessment of past formal education programs giving reasons for the lack of receptivity to such programs by target populations. The study points to certain factors such as the oral tradition, which must be taken into account in the development of training materials.

Drawing mainly on the data regarding existing social and economic roles of Sahelian women, the study makes some general recommendations for project activities. Suggestions include: agricultural and/or livestock training programs, health and

nutrition education programs, projects designed to enable local population to make more effective use of local medicines, and programs designed to promote an appreciation for indigenous cultures. The study cautions that the specific content of a

project beneficiaries. Guidelines for personnel are given. The study recommends that personnel and non-formal education projects geared toward women include animatrices to serve as coordinators for the project at the family, village, and regional level. The specific functions of each animatrice are delineated in the projects in the report. The regional animatrice, charged with overseeing the activities of the village and family animatrices, would be responsible to a team of project supervisors. This team, composed of researchers, engineers, development assistance managers, educational planners, and a representative from the funding agency, would plan, follow-up, and evaluate the project components in cooperation with the regional animatrice. The study recommends this personnel structure as a model for all non-formal projects suggested above. General qualifications for animatrices include a knowledge of the role/function of Sahelian women, report writing skills, fluency in the local language, and sensitivity to the educational needs of rural adults.

Questionnaires administered to village populations allow the researchers to assess the possible constraints to project implementation and the prospects for overcoming these constraints. Most of the villagers interviewed did not indicate receptivity

to the idea of classroom instruction. Yet, they demonstrated a certain desire to receive certain benefits from their government which had not been forthcoming. Both men and women responded positively to the notion of collaborative income-generating activities for women. The report therefore concludes that the lack of attention from the national government, combined with a dislike for formal education and the desire for participating in income-generating activities, indicates that local populations are well disposed to accepting such projects. Villages identified as tentative project sites included:

Boulage in the Liptaka region;

Sohlan in the Yahga region;

So in the Djelgodj region; and,

Lillangou in the Oudalan region.

These villages were chosen because of their linguistic and cultural homogeneity.

In spite of the somewhat academic and general approach to the study, it appears that the researchers managed to glean information which may be of some utility to ongoing or future Women in Development projects in the Sahel. The in-depth critique of the study currently being undertaken by the AID anthropologist in Upper Volta will undoubtedly shed light on the potential usefulness of this study.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for this evaluation consisted of a review of all pertinent documents, including a thorough reading

of the study itself. It also involved conversation held in Dakar and Washington with Mary Ann Reigelman, WID Officer for Upper Volta. However, the mission did not grant permission for visits to Upper Volta. A desk audit was the prime source of data.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PROJECT DESIGN AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Inputs

The study was conducted by two male researchers from the CVRS who enlisted the help of six enumerators, both men and women. The study was executed in two parts: an exploratory study was conducted in January 1978 to identify target villages, and the major data collection efforts lasted from May to September, 1978. Interviews were conducted with populations in eleven villages. The combined populations of these villages totalled approximately 7,654 people. In addition to the anthropologist, the two researchers, and the six enumerators, there was also a chauffeur/interpreter, support staff, and seven vehicles.

Outputs included one 127-page report prepared by the Voltaic Center for Scientific Research which contains an extensive bibliography and samples of the questionnaires administered.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF SPECIAL CONCERNS

Constraints

A major external factor hindering the timely completion of this study appears to have been a budgetary problem in the

CVRS, the implementing agency. Another factor cited by researchers as having brought about delays was the need to travel great distance over poor roads to obtain needed research data.

Beneficiaries

Principal constraints cited by the researchers that had conducted the study included lack of time and difficulty in obtaining quantifiable information from the populations interviewed.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation team found that, in general, the study achieved the stated purposes. The project paper calling for the study stated that it is hoped that this study will contribute to the design of the project paper (for the non-formal education project). It seemed clear that some of the information contained in the study could have contributed to the design of the project paper, however, without more informatio regarding the non-formal education project currently underway in Upper Volta, the evaluation team is unable to make any assessment regarding the specific applicability of the study's findings to that project. Yet, even if the study had been available prior to the planning of the project, it appears certain that another data collection effort would have been necessary to provide the specific information needed for project design.

The women and their families who were involved in the project (which was to have evolved from the study) were to

have been the beneficiaries. However, since the study was not used as a project design tool, it was of no direct benefit to the population it was originally intended to assist. It can be assumed, however, that those researchers and enumerators directly involved in the data collection process benefited from the project through increased knowledge of the role of women in the Sahel and in improvement and refinement of their data collection skills. They constitute a valuable resource of experienced researchers who can be called on to assist in future data collection efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Those interviewed stated that studies of this nature cannot alone provide the kind of data necessary for successful project design. The amount of time which elapses from the initial collection of data to actual project implementation with studies of this scope is so lengthy that the recommendations, and even the findings, are often rendered invalid by the time the project commences. The usefullness of these studies lies in their ability to set guidelines and provide direction for the more specific project design studies which must inevitably follow. These project design studies should be conducted just prior to the arrival of the pre-design team.