Development and the family
The Australian Development Studies Network seeks to provide a forum for discussion and debate of development issues, and to keep people in the field up-to-date with developments and events, publications, etc. The Network does this through its publications program and by conducting or co-sponsoring seminars, symposia and conferences. The Network produces three publications:

*Development Bulletin* is the Network’s quarterly Newsletter. It includes short articles (normally 1,000 to 2,000 words); reports on conferences and seminars; announcements of forthcoming events; details of courses, research and work related to development or development studies; articles on the centres pursuing these activities; and information about development education materials, recent publications and other news.

*Briefing Papers* address a wide variety of development-related issues. They are concise (normally 2,000 to 5,000 words) and accessible to the non-technical reader, and may include implications for Australia’s foreign development assistance policy.

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**Correspondence**

You may have information you wish to share with others in the development field: conference announcements or reports, notices of new publications, information about the work of your centre or courses you offer, or you may wish to respond to articles or *Briefing Papers*. If so, please write to the Editor.

If you wish to obtain Network publications or enquire about membership, subscriptions, seminar sponsorship, etc., please write to the Network Director. The address is:

Development Bulletin
Australian Development Studies Network
Australian National University
Canberra
ACT 0200
Tel: (06) 249 2466
Fax: (06) 257 2886

**Deadlines**

Closing dates for submissions to Development Bulletin are mid-November, -February, -May and -August for the January, April, July and October issues respectively.
Development and the family
Editors Notes

Dear Friends,

1994 will be the International Year of the Family and this issue of Development Bulletin considers the place and future of the family as we approach the next millenium.

Briefing paper

The briefing paper “Teaching about development: Some professional issues” by David Goldsworthy which accompanies this issue provides food for thought for all those people involved in teaching development studies.

From the field

Doug Porter reports on a small scale infrastructure project in Vietnam which links credit facilities with participatory planning.

Urbanisation update

Paul Jones is the ‘first’ urban planner to be employed in Kiribati, and he provides some insights into the problems Kiribati is facing. Russel Arthur-Smith sounds a warning about unplanned tourist development in the Asia Pacific region.

Aid update

We follow the recent controversy regarding the funding of family planning projects by the Australian Government, with the latest word from the Minister on the subject.

Retrospective on Australian Aid

The Australian Development Studies Network, in conjunction with the Society for International Development held a successful ‘Retrospective on Australian Aid’ in September this year. Several speakers who have been influential in shaping the size, shape and focus of Australian Aid reflected on their experiences and gave thought to the future. The proceedings will be published, and we will let you know when they are available.

AIDAB Assistance

The Network is pleased to acknowledge the on-going assistance of AIDAB in the publication of Development Bulletin.

Good reading,

Pamela Thomas, Helen Skeat and Rafat Hussain.

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1994 has been designated as the International Year of the Family (IYF) by the United Nations. This comes at a time of major changes in family structures world wide. Ever-increasing levels of urbanisation, rising costs of living and changing material aspirations are lending weight to a breakdown of the traditional extended family structure in many developing countries, and more and more reliance on nuclear families.

Additionally, the unprecedented rise in single parent households has far-reaching social and economic implications for current and future family structures both in developed and developing countries. The psychological effects including isolation, stress of taking on dual roles, and the long-term impact on children and family welfare needs to be assessed carefully. The International Year of the Family provides an opportunity to initiate measures in this regard.

Recent advances in medical technology and marked gains in life expectancy are also leading to more strain on the already over-burdened health care services in many industrialised countries, and raise some profound ethical and moral issues for the role of the family in the care of the elderly. Moreover, in developing countries the lack of public infrastructure to deal with the increasing proportions of elderly population and the breakdown of the traditional family structure is leading to a conflict of priorities at the individual, family and state level.

The devastating effects of AIDS on family life are beginning to emerge in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that there are approximately eight million adults infected with AIDS in Africa alone.

Political instability and armed conflict in Eastern Europe and parts of Africa and Asia have made millions of people refugees either in their own countries or in alien and not always very receptive environments. The psycho-social impact of these ongoing conflicts is overwhelming and beyond quantitative measurement.

In this issue of Development Bulletin Julian Disney discusses the importance of broader issues in the International Year of the Family, not only those traditionally associated with families such as social welfare. He also suggests policy initiatives for Australian NGOs targeting family issues.

Penny Kane describes the importance of adequate family planning to the health of all members of the family. Early, frequent and prolonged child bearing can all have devastating effects on the health of the mother. The death or illness of a mother can have serious consequences for the rest of the family who must take on her burden.

Robyn Groves demonstrates the plight of families in war-torn regions or subject to persecution, who become refugees. She points out that 80 per cent of refugees are women and children. Families are not only affected by becoming refugees - through death of family members, separation and the stress of living in refugee camps - but the structure and strength of family networks can determine how families survive as refugees.

Elizabeth Reid examines the effect that the AIDS epidemic is having on children. Grandparent- and adolescent-headed households have become common. She argues that the needs of the surviving children in an AIDS-affected household go far beyond the immediate material needs and include long-term psycho-social support.

Mark Kelly points out that many children grow up with no families. War and disease leave many children without the fundamental support of their families. WHO estimates that by the year 2000, there will be 10 million AIDS orphans world-wide.

Bruce Caldwell foreshadows some of the problems families will face in the light of rapid economic growth in East and South East Asia.

Ni-K-Plange outlines the problems of caring for an increasingly aged population in Fiji, as traditional family structures for the care of the elderly breakdown, and there is little government support to replace them.

Heather Booth provides a statistical comparison of families in the Pacific. There appears to be no typical 'family' in the Pacific with a large variation in the standard demographic and health indices.

Pamela Thomas and David Lucas outline the situation of the Pacific families today where increased urbanisation is leading to a breakdown of the traditional family values and structures, increasing levels of crime & violence.
The International Year of the Family in Australia

Julian Disney, International and Public Law, Australian National University

This paper is the summary of a consultant report by Julian Disney to a consortium of church welfare agencies, and it addresses potential action church welfare agencies could take during the International Year of the Family.

The United Nations has proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF). The Australian Commonwealth Government has appointed a Minister (Peter Staples) to have special responsibility for observance of the Year in Australia, and has established a small secretariat within the Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services.

In accordance with the UN approach, no attempt has been made in this paper to define precisely the range of relationships which should be covered by the International Year of the Family. Clearly there should be a central place for the type of family which is predominant in Australian society, namely people who are closely related to each other by marriage or blood. Substantial attention should be given, however, to other types of relationships which may be regarded as having some or many characteristics of this predominant type of family in our society. This would include, but not be confined to, relationships such as extended families, step-families, adoptive and foster relationships and de-facto marriages.

This inclusive approach to the types of relationship which fall within the ambit of IYF should be complemented by an inclusive approach to the types of issues to be considered. The range of issues which should be regarded as 'family issues' should not be confined to the traditional areas of 'family services' and 'welfare'. Many of the greatest impacts on families stem from policies, practices and attitudes in areas such as diverse areas taxation, urban development, industrial relations, transport and the media. It is absolutely essential that the opportunity provided by IYF is taken to look at these areas with special emphasis on their impact on families. This will require close involvement of the very highest level of government, and very broad based participation by non government organisations and individuals. It will be important to recognise that, at least under current circumstances, many family issues are of special concern to women. However, it will be equally important to ensure that this differentiation is not accentuated or perpetuated where it is inappropriate.

Principles and objectives

The principals and objectives outlined by the UN Secretariat for IYF appear to be broadly appropriate in the Australian context, but would benefit from some reformulation for our own domestic purposes. A possible statement of the objectives is as follows.

'The principal objectives of the International Year of the Family are to stimulate and strengthen (i) public understanding of family issues and their importance to the community; (ii) research, analysis and discussion of family issues; (iii) identification, development and evaluation of measures for addressing family issues; (iv) implementation of appropriate measures affecting family issues. A special emphasis should be placed on the situations of low-income and other disadvantaged people. These objectives should be pursued through action by government, non government organisations and individuals at local, national and international level'.

As a framework for helping to identify issues and initiatives it may be useful to concentrate on the following aspects of the circumstances of the families and their individual members:

- financial resources (whether income or assets);
- work (whether paid or unpaid);
- health;
- personal relationships;
- recreation (whether physical or mental);
- housing;
- education and training;
- access to information and advice.

There are a number of areas in which initiatives could be taken by governments, non government bodies or individuals during the next few years. As mentioned earlier, a broad-based approach should be adopted in the development of family policies. It will be necessary, however, to avoid becoming so broad to become ineffective or even counter-productive. In order to reduce this danger, five themes which could be adopted as special priorities for action during the next few years are as follows: urban development; parenting skills and responsibilities; work and family responsibilities; effectiveness of family assistance programmes; and the role of media.

Possible structures and processes

There are a number of measures which could be undertaken by government and non government bodies. Broad policy initiatives and specific suggestions are provided below. Church welfare agencies are used as an example of possible action organisations could take during IYF.

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For example, church welfare agencies could establish their own committee to stimulate and co-ordinate IYF activities. Where an agency is part of a national or State network, committees could be established at those levels. The committees could cover a wide range of activities, from front-line workers to members of the governing board. Agencies could also consider encouraging general organisations within their own church to establish IYF committees. Another option worth considering is the establishment of an IYF unit, or of a policy unit which gives initial priority to IYF issues. This approach could help attract funding and internal support for a long-term increase in emphasis on pro-active research and policy work.

Agencies could urge peak non government bodies to establish a committee, or a regular consultative structure, specifically for IYF. Financial and other assistance could be given to help disadvantaged groups such as sole parents. organisations to establish a committee and/or appoint a staff person to work on IYF matters. Some large business organisations with which an agency may have a special link, could be responsive to suggestions that they should establish a special committee or staff position.

Possible policy initiatives

A wide range of policy initiatives which could be implemented by governments, non government organisations and individuals are presented below.

Social security: Agencies could seek to stimulate, and to some extent resource, a major campaign for increased family assistance payments. Special emphasis could be given to direct and indirect costs incurred by parents of young children (say, under 6 years) and by sole parents. Research based on the agencies’ front-line experience could help to demonstrate these costs and severe poverty traps which arise from income-testing of payments and others forms of assistance. Church welfare agencies could seek to expand the supply of welfare rights workers who can assist families experiencing difficulty with social security system or other family assistance programmes. This could involve financing or in some other way supporting the establishment of a Welfare Rights Centre or of a welfare rights workers in an existing agency.

Community services: An area of severe unmet need is specialist counselling for victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse. Another high priority is the provision of general information and advice services in readily accessible locations. The church welfare agencies for example could possibly take some action themselves to increase the supply of part-week or respite child care places which are provided by themselves or agencies with which they are associated. Obvious options include campaigns for expansion of the HACC and SAPP programmes and for much greater funding of Family Support Services. The agencies could also seek evaluation and consultations in relation to the roles of the new Family Resource Centres.

Health: Many types of health services currently provided by the church welfare agencies could be given greater emphasis. This applies, for example, to services aimed at combating drug and alcohol abuse. Another possibility is for agencies to stimulate and support the development of private but non-profit medical practices which concentrate on preventive care for families and include appropriate welfare workers in senior positions within the practice.

Employment: Agencies could place greater emphasis on providing basic preparatory courses for women seeking to re-enter the paid workforce, and for children of families with a long record of unemployment.

Education and training: Agencies could establish School Liaison Services which involves welfare workers liaising with teachers (often on school premises) to provide appropriate information, counselling and referrals for students in difficulty. They could help to develop curricula and teacher-training for the provision of basic “life skills” courses in schools. The agencies could campaign vigorously for church and public schools to provide more school counsellors and careers advisers who have sufficient time and expertise for those functions. They could concentrate particularly on improving these services in disadvantaged schools. Much greater use could be made of school premises after school hours. Agencies could develop special programmes of family-orientated activities utilising these premises. Agencies could help identify social themes (such as “second families”) which are insufficiently dealt with in children’s books, and encourage publishers to address those needs.

Law and justice: The agencies could initiate the establishment of an independent, high-level Commission to propose and lobby for detailed reforms in the laws relating to division of property and custody of children. Assistance could be given for the establishment on a pilot basis of private, non-profit legal practices which could specialise in helping low-income people with family law problems and would have non-lawyers in senior positions.

Communications: The agencies could combine with other community organisations to highlight the extent to which children are exposed by television and videos to gratuitous violence, sexual hedonism and excessive consumption and mount a campaign for reform.

There is a wide range of other areas which merit close attention; two of special importance which fell beyond the original consultants report relate to the needs of the Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander families, and to family-oriented initiatives in the Pacific and SouthEast Asia.
The spread of contraception from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, in Western Europe and in countries of European settlement overseas, had a considerable impact on the European family, both in terms of composition and well-being. Since the 1960s, the spread of contraception has begun to affect families in the developing world, although its full potential remains to be achieved.

The immediate significance of contraception is seen in its effect on maternal and child health. Half a million women each year are believed to die from causes related to pregnancy, most of them in the poorer countries of the world. Pregnancies in young girls, or poorly-spaced and frequent pregnancies, often lead to, or exacerbate, malnutrition and anaemia amongst women; the demands for breastfeeding and general care of the children who result from the pregnancies further undermine their mother’s health. A maternal depletion syndrome results, in which each additional pregnancy places a woman at greater risk of severe health impairment and often death.

The death of a mother is a family tragedy for her husband, existing children and other kin. Often it is the precursor of further tragedy. A pregnancy-related death may result in a stillborn child or the child’s early death. Its chances of long-term survival are poor in any event. Lacking immunities conferred by breast milk, it is vulnerable to infections and to inadequate or inappropriate feeding. The father must try both to support, and to care for his children; often very difficult while he is working. It is often assumed that grandparents will take over the mother’s caring role, but in many African countries, where life expectancy is still below 50 years, fit and active or even surviving grandparents are comparatively uncommon. Thus the death of a mother frequently results in a succession of other tragedies within the family. The World Health Organisation states “most of the infants born to the ... women who die each year during pregnancy and childbirth are among those dying during the perinatal period of infancy” (WHO 1992).

Even if there are other family members to help share the burden of motherless children, the family unit is broken, and there is evidence that children taken over by relatives are not always treated as equals within the extended family. They may be expected to contribute excessive work to the household which can deprive them of an education; their access to food, clothing and health care may also be limited. One study in Sierra Leone, noting that the local word for ‘orphan’ usually referred to the child of a dead mother, observed: “Orphans appear to suffer considerably from neglect; other women in the household have their hands full with their own children’s needs and sickness, and orphans necessarily make demands on household wealth…” (Bledsoe 1989).

Sri Lanka provides an example of the contribution which family planning can make to reducing the devastating impact of maternal deaths on families. During the immediate post-war years, primarily as a result of an intensive anti-malarial campaign, life expectancy of both sexes improved dramatically. However mortality decline for women in the age group 25-44 was very limited, while men in the same age group experienced considerable improvements. In other words, women in the reproductive years were still suffering from the hazards of pregnancy and childbirth. During the next three decades, as women married and had their babies later, and had smaller families under conditions of improved health care and widespread use of contraception, their gains in life expectancy during the reproductive years considerably exceeded those of men in the same age groups.

In countries without similar access to contemporary family planning methods, many women turn to abortion for fertility control. Unfortunately, inadequate facilities, or societal or legal proscription often lead them to resort to unsafe practices. It is thought that such practices account for a quarter to a third of the annual total of 500,000 maternal deaths worldwide (WHO 1992). Many very young females risk their lives in an attempt to abort a pregnancy, a study in Nigeria found that abortion complications accounted for 72 per cent of all deaths of women under 19 years (IPPF 1993). Others are the mothers for whom the burden of further childbearing has become intolerable.

Although maternal death poses the greatest threat to a family, the death of children is a much more common occurrence with infant mortality rates in some low-income countries still around 150 per 1000 live births. An average mother may expect to lose a least two children.

The World Fertility Surveys of the 1970s provided evidence of the effect of early childbearing on the survival chances of mothers and children. An infant born to a teenage mother is 24 per cent more likely to die in the first month of life compared to one born to an older mother; excess mortality is 37 per cent for the remainder of the infant’s first year and 33 per cent in early childhood (WHO 1992). A possible reason is the increased incidence of low birth weight babies borne to women who are physically immature. In China, the decline in the number of very low birth weight babies over the past three decades, has
been attributed in large part to the reduction of adolescent pregnancies (Kase 1991). An overlapping further cause is that teenage children having children are ill-equipped either biologically or mentally for childbearing.

In addition, young mothers tend to be less educated; indeed pregnancy itself may have terminated their schooling. Most schools expel pregnant girls who are often rejected by their parents as well. Such girls often come from the poorer groups within a society and have less economic support.

Some countries in which girls were traditionally married at a very young age, have attempted to improve the status of women by imposing a minimum marriage age. However in the absence of comprehensive birth and marriage registration systems and rigorous enforcement of the law, the custom is still prevalent, particularly in the rural areas. In Bangladesh, a fifth of all girls have a child before they are 15 years old (IPPF 1993).

Where adolescent pregnancies are to unmarried girls, the risks to both mother and child increase. Even in countries where childbearing outside marriage is common, unmarried mothers often get no economic support. In Botswana, over 40 per cent of girls have births before marriage, but fewer than half of them receive support from the child’s father (IPPF 1993). An unmarried adolescent mother, with inadequate education and little societal support, is particularly poorly equipped for childrearing; the existence of the child further limits her already unimpressive chances of being able to earn an adequate income.

Those who become pregnant in adolescence are, in the absence of fertility control, likely to have larger families than those who first conceive as adults. But whenever a woman’s childbearing career begins, if she has a large family, it is often one which has been poorly spaced. Poorly spaced births were found, in the World Fertility Survey, to raise the average chance of dying in infancy by about 60-70 per cent, and the chances of dying before age five, by about half. Short birth spacing, less than two years between live births, was found to increase the likelihood of death not only for the infant, but also for its older siblings (Hobcraft, McDonald & Rutstein 1983). Abrupt weaning of the older child plays a part but other reasons, perhaps withdrawal of care by an overburdened mother, seem also to be important.

Infant and child deaths, resulting from early and too frequent childbearing, therefore, make a significant contribution to the high overall levels of infant and early child mortality found in much of the developing world. Without family planning, couples face the constant fear of losing the children they create. The loss of children involves immediate sorrow and mourning. It may also imply longer-term threats to family welfare and even survival, if successive deaths lead to divorce of the mother (who is often blamed for inability to produce healthy babies), or to a shortage of children surviving to an age where they can support elderly parents or marry to carry on the family lineage.

Deaths of women and children are the most dramatic, but not the only, manifestation of the problems resulting from too many and too closely spaced pregnancies. Maternal health problems make up almost one-fifth (18 per cent) of reported ill-health among women aged 15-44 in developing countries, according to the World Bank (World Bank 1993). In Asia, almost 60 per cent of women are anaemic; in India, the proportion rises to 88 per cent. Ailing mothers, who may also be in pain, are in no condition to give maximum care to the children they already have, and any future births carry higher risks of death for both mother and infant.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the more recent Demographic and Health Surveys and Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys have indicated that women in the developing world increasingly want to space or limit their families. In most surveyed countries outside Arica, at least half of all married women reported that they wanted no more children; in most of Africa almost half either wanted to postpone another birth, or to stop childbearing (Robey, Rutstein, Morris & Blackburn 1992). Although many of these women, an estimated 87 million, do not have access to services which would enable them to do so, they are now aware that choices about the timing of births, and their number, are a real possibility.

Such an understanding marks the beginning of fundamental shifts in thinking, which may profoundly affect the roles and functioning of individuals and families. Perhaps the most significant shift is towards changes in the status of women. The ability to control fertility empowers women, enabling them to complete an education, to train for and get work, to combine - although often at considerable cost - childrearing and economic independence. For many women enmeshed in the traditional expectations of family and society, the decision, to manage their own reproductive behaviour is the first experience in self-determination.

For some it is a first step which is taken in defiance of husband or other family members such as a mother-in-law. In other circumstances a couple may together make choices about the timing of a pregnancy or the desired number of children. In societies where it has traditionally been difficult for men and women jointly to discuss any aspect of sexuality, family planning, as a shared concern, can lead to a new and closer husband/wife relationship. Additional support can come from the knowledge that they do not have to abstain from sexual intercourse in order to avoid a pregnancy. Abstinence, either for a period, to ensure well-spaced pregnancies, or permanently, when desired family size is achieved, was an age-old practice in societies as different as those of Africa and Australia.
If marriage does not automatically mean a career of constant maternity, parents may become more willing to invest in the education and training of daughters, instead of seeing them as a waste of family resources. The pressures for early marriage could themselves decrease, because of reluctance to lose the extra investment in a daughter, and a lessened concern that an unmarried adolescent will have an unintended pregnancy.

Lack of adequate research on the wider impact of family planning means that many of these possibilities are no more than speculation. Causal connections remain unclear even in the European context, where a longer history of contraceptive use and more comprehensive demographic and sociological data might be expected to provide greater insight (Kane 1992). Variations in the timing and spread of the fertility transition, and in today's marriage and family formation patterns across Europe suggest that family planning will affect differing cultures in different ways. But one fundamental measure of its potential impact on families is very clear. The 1993 World Development Report puts it succinctly, “Satisfying the expressed wish of women to space or limit future births might each year avert as many as 100,000 maternal deaths and 850,000 deaths among children under five” (World Bank 1993).

References


Women's reproductive health
About half a million women die in childbirth each year - 99% of these are in developing countries. Most of these deaths could be prevented by relatively cheap and simple measures. Around 60% of pregnant women in developing countries are anaemic, and almost half of non-pregnant women suffer from nutritional anaemia. This compares with 4-7% in Europe. In many developing countries, maternal mortality is the leading cause of death for girls aged between 15 and 19. Reprinted from: AIDAB, 1993, Equal partners: Gender awareness and Australian development cooperation.

Declining world birth rates
Regional total fertility rates 1980 & 1991

The average number of births per women in the developing world has fallen steeply in the last decade. In South America the average number of children has fallen from 4 to 3 in ten years. In South Asia, fertility has fallen from just over 5 births per woman in 1980 to just over 4 in 1991. East Asia, dominated in population size by China, is nearing the replacement level of just over 2 births per woman. Sub-Saharan Africa has seen little change in fertility over the last ten years - but the most recent surveys suggest a definite downturn.

Source: The progress of nations, UNICEF 1993, p.33
The lost families: Refugees and International Year of the Family

Robyn Groves, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Families who flee

The number of refugees in the world has more than doubled in the decade since 1981, from eight million to over 18 million in 1992. The great majority of those who flee war or persecution across national borders do so as family units, and 80 per cent are women and children. If there is time to consider, the decision to become a refugee is usually a family decision. Susan Forbes Martin, co-founder of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children has commented that "Family patterns, and particularly extended family patterns, determine who becomes a refugee and where they go".

Thus, families lucky enough to remain intact during periods of chaos and violence, may flee an emergency together. Older males may send women and children away from a threatening situation while they remain behind to guard land or property or fight a civil war. Those who flee generally seek refuge where relatives or kinsfolk live. Survival strategies change over time - various family members may return to their homes or join their relatives in flight, depending on the level of danger and the opportunities for subsistence.

Initial damage to refugee families

The process of seeking refuge and the conditions which force this action bring death to many and trauma to the survivors. María Azara de Jesus Rodriguez testified at a public hearing last year that families from her village in central America fled in 1980 after tortures and murders were inflicted on them by military forces; that four in the group were killed crossing into a neighbouring country; and that while seeking to return to their homeland the next year, 36 more died under air attack in the same area.

Canon Burgess Carr, Director of the Episcopal Migration Ministries and formerly Secretary-General of the All Africa Council of Churches, remembers stories from the 1970s told to him by Burundi mothers. Their families were pursued by soldiers "from burning villages into tall grass, where to prevent the discovery of the entire group, they had to silence crying infants forever by crushing their babies' skulls between their knees".

Natural forces also decimate families on the run; storms that swamp dilapidated craft on the open seas, droughts, floods and mud slides. Filsan Darman, who provided social education for women and children for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Somalia and is now running a relief programme for displaced Somalis, spoke to a mother who saw two of her children killed by lions during their flight from civil war.

Sometimes family units are destroyed completely. Boys from southern Sudan, for instance, are in fear of attack by one side in the civil war or conscription by the other. For years they have been fleeing into Kenya and Ethiopia en masse, and by 1988 four out of five of the 180,000 inhabitants of the Itang camp in Ethiopia were unaccompanied males. The fathers of many of them had been killed, and sisters and mothers had been raped and abducted.

Refugees are a global phenomenon. They exist in great numbers in central Asia, the Horn of Africa, southern Africa, the eastern Mediterranean coast, the Caribbean and central American regions where bitter conflicts have been exacerbated by underdevelopment, environmental degradation, ethnic or religious tensions, harsh repression or natural disasters. In one week in 1991, 1.5 million people flooded across the borders of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, and in 1993 war in the former Yugoslavia has made four million people homeless.

Impact on families

Refugee families must cope with the trauma of separation from their homelands, friends and relatives. Long term residents in refugee camps, no matter how orderly they appear, are afflicted by depression, suicide, drug abuse, alcoholism, crime and sheer boredom. One American doctor serving in Site 2 camp on the Thai border (housing at its peak 190,000 Cambodians), described relatively few medical problems, but endemic psychological problems. This is inevitable when families depend for their survival on international charity. Men cannot support their families, women cannot provide their traditional nurturing role, and children born behind the fence of a refugee camp, know only a half life.

When families are headed by women the problems are compounded. How can mothers tend their children and care for the elderly and still seek employment? Women are vulnerable to rape, harassment and robbery. In societies where clan identity is determined through the male line, families headed by women may lose their affiliation and, since so much relief assistance is channelled through clans, become cut off from aid. Family structures undergo change as traditional roles take strange twists. Wives who continue...
to prepare food, gather wood and care for children, become by virtue of their activities, de facto heads of households. Husbands, when they are there, cannot as providers. This can lead to family tension, domestic violence or abandonment. "The women have a lot to do, but the men feel helpless looking at their wife and children, and not being able to help them", Somali relief worker Filsan Darman says, "they just run away". UNHCR has developed training programmes to assist refugee workers in recognising these socio-economic changes in the community and to support families' adjustment.

Children tend to be more adaptable to new settings than their elders, and to learn languages faster. They often serve as a conduit for information between their family and the outside world, in the process taking on some of the attributes of parents. Role inversions like this can result in intergenerational conflicts. In many refugee situations, children have witnessed atrocities or committed atrocities themselves. Tizita Belachew, a Somali who observed refugees and displaced people in Ethiopia for the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, saw the effects of almost continuous war and famine. "The typical 17 year old you talk to has witnessed 17 years of brutality. They are survivors, but most of them don't have a plan for life. The traditional respect of children for their elders is breaking down. Most of the kids go to school with guns".

The strengths of refugee families

Despite the battering families take when they become refugees, the family remains an irreplaceable source of strength. Relatives help to care for children and fill the gaps caused by the absence of other family members. The shared purpose of family life provides a fixed point of reference within an uprooted existence. Extended family relations are especially important. In Africa, for instance, refugees crossing borders drawn up in an artificial fashion by colonial authorities, often arrive in communities of their own tribe or clan. "Most of them speak the same language, and in past times frequented the same markets", says Nana Apeadu, a Queen Mother from a Ghanaian village who is active in refugee relief. "So they're welcomed as relatives in the African style. Governments help, chiefs help, the communities help". Refugees have demonstrated great resilience and compassion in repairing broken families. In many settings, refugee orphans are adopted by refugee families. New family units are improvised.

Nana Apeadu is familiar with a 28 year old refugee women from Liberia who takes care of nine individuals, including uncles, cousins and children of relatives who have been slain. When families are taking decisions about returning to homelands, their extended family contacts are crucial. "Family communication networks", as Susan Forbes Martin of the Women's Commission calls them, are the most relied upon source of information about security on the other side of the border.

Relief assistance and development

Support for refugee families that goes beyond the basic survival needs of food, clothing, shelter and medical care, gives refugees a better chance to become self-reliant and productive. Such support in fact, is a form of development assistance. There is a great need therefore, to link development and relief assistance.

One way to do this is to tie infrastructure used at the outset of an emergency to development activities - for instance providing seeds for farming. As soon as possible other kinds of assistance, such as making credit available to small businesses and co-operatives, and setting up family clinics, schools and day care facilities, should be made available. To reduce the antagonism between refugees and local people who are also in great need, it may be advantageous to share development aid among the two groups. The process is not easy. The governments of many countries are reluctant to encourage development plans which may induce refugees to stay within their borders indefinitely. Many development agencies are not experienced in working with households headed by women or fail to take into account the significance of extended family structures.

The dynamics of refugee aid can, under certain circumstances, actually perpetuate dependency. Families unconvinced of the reliability of development assistance in their native land or their new place of residence, may opt to remain refugees, and therefore be eligible at least, for emergency aid. Governments of severely underdeveloped countries can find economic reasons to prefer that refugees remain abroad, by sending back part of what they receive in assistance or earn as workers to relatives who stayed behind, the refugees temporarily improve their country's balance of payments and ease its welfare burden.

Most urgently, the world community is called upon to help settle the disputes which caused displacement. A letter sent to Nana Apeadu by a women who fled Liberia contains this message, "Every day I pray for peace, so that finally no one will need to know what the word 'refugee' means".

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Children in families affected by the HIV epidemic: A strategic approach

Elizabeth Reid, UNDP

Many of the most striking images of the HIV epidemic are of families, but of unfamiliar families: a grandparent surrounded by grandchildren, adolescent-headed families, often siblings and cousins bonded together, dying adults tended by their children and communities as families. It is timely to focus on such families rather than on children alone, or youth alone or adults. This allows for an intra-familial and longitudinal analysis of the needs, skills and resources of families affected by HIV which provides a different basis for determining and ranking the required responses.

This analysis has already been done by a number of organisations assisting adolescents and children whose parents know they are HIV-infected, are ill or have died of AIDS. There is much to learn from them and this paper attempts to draw together some of their insights and knowledge.

The forms that families take vary within and across cultures and generations. They are affected by increasing urbanisation, by poverty, by political and economic migration, by changes in labour market structures, by the changing roles of women and other factors. Super-imposed on all these factors now will be the impact on family life of the death of many parents and young adults.

Most of those infected are in the age group 20 to 40 years and the overwhelming majority are parents. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of all those infected do not know they are infected. Many women are indirectly diagnosed when they are still well, through the diagnosis of HIV infection in their children. Many men do not get diagnosed until they have a clinically observable HIV-related illness. In most households where there is one infected person, there will probably be three or more: both parents and one or more children.

WHO estimates that eight million adults in Africa have been infected with HIV, and so possibly four million families already know that they are affected or will soon know. Many of these affected families do not cease to exist when the adults die. They live on as grandparent or adolescent-headed families, but many of them are seriously distressed, destitute or scattered. The figures for other developing regions and Eastern Europe are still much lower but in many areas growing rapidly.

Up until now, many of the policies and programmes addressing the needs of affected children and adolescents have assumed that they start with the death of their mothers or parents, and consist of predominantly material needs. It is important to broaden this focus. This paper argues that the needs of these young people start with the knowledge that someone in their family is infected and continue on to their social and sexual maturity. Their needs are psychological, emotional, ethical, legal and spiritual; they are for acceptance, nurturing, support, counselling and care; they include financial, material, educational, health and social development needs.

This paper also argues that the needs of these children cannot only be met by policies and programmes addressed to children and youth. There are at least three other types of interventions required: assistance to their parents, to their communities and by their governments. For the wellbeing of their children, parents need to be able to continue working, need to be assisted in planning for their and their children’s future and need access to treatment of opportunistic conditions which may lessen their ability to work and parent.

Extended family systems and communities need support in keeping these new family forms in their midst. Governments have a multi-faceted role in increasing awareness, establishing an appropriate legal, ethical and human rights framework and in the provision of the required services and support.

This paper is intended to raise a number of issues which can serve as a basis for widespread discussion. It is addressed to all those interested in determining how best to respond to the epidemic. It is not a Manifesto for Children and Youth but rather another way of looking at the complex reality of this epidemic and its exigencies which may enable individuals, organisations and nations to rethink their HIV-related policies and programme priorities. It is now starkly clear in many parts of Africa that, if we do not quickly find appropriate ways of responding to this epidemic, the lives of many future generations will be bleak, anguished and often brutal.

Programme elements

While specific programme components will vary according to the stage the epidemic has reached and the situation, culture and resources of each country or community, five main strategic programme elements can be identified. Under each programme element, a number of programme components have been identified. These are not meant to
be exhaustive, nor are they operational in nature. The specific means of addressing each area may vary from one situation to another.

1. Preparing children for the future

Most parents come to know they are HIV-infected when one of them or one of their children is clinically diagnosed with HIV-related illnesses. The earlier a parent’s infection status is known, the more time he or she will have to plan for the children’s future, in particular, to find another family or person who can care for and shelter them. The parent will also have more time to pass on their skills and knowledge to their children, and to help them be able to support themselves. Knowing their infection status when they are well, will also help the parents to prepare their children and themselves emotionally for their deaths.

Components of this programme element could include:

Access to voluntary, confidential and affordable counselling and testing for adults and the motivation to use it. This would allow parents more time to plan for their own and their children’s future. Infected parents often want to seek advice on how and when to tell this to their children. Access to testing and counselling can also assist people in making decisions about whether they wish to have more children.

Disclosure with counselling of a child’s infection to both parents. The Women and AIDS Support Network Conference in Zimbabwe in 1989 stressed the importance of both parents being informed at the same time if that child is infected and that both receive caring counselling regarding their child’s and their own HIV status. In some cases where a child has been clinically diagnosed with AIDS and only the mother has been informed, the father has blamed the mother and abandoned her and the sick child.

Continued employment. HIV-infected people who remain fit to work have the right to remain employed. If this right is denied them, their children will suffer.

Simple treatment of opportunistic infections. Experience in Masaka, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda has shown that, for many HIV-infected parents, treatment of conditions such as thrush, skin infection, diarrhoea and fever, is important since it allows them to continue to work, to nurture their children and to die with dignity. Counselling and access to appropriate low-cost or subsidised medicines may lessen the problem of families exhausting their financial and other resources in a futile search for a ‘cure’.

Passing on to children income-generating skills. Some home-care providers encourage parents, once they know they have been infected with HIV, to pass their income-earning skills on to their children.

Planning for children’s future care. The emotional stress of both parents and their children can be eased through parents planning for the future care and support for their children. The importance of this has been stressed repeatedly by infected women in all parts of the developed and developing world. Once the future guardian is identified, financial, legal and other arrangements can be made and this person or family involved in planning for the children’s future.

Protection of children’s inheritance and other legal rights. The children’s continuing access to the family house, land and goods is critical to their survival and well-being. Specific steps appropriate to traditional inheritance customs and/or national law may need to be taken by parents before their deaths. Discussing inheritance matters with clan elders and/or preparing and registering a will, are examples. Parents need to be informed about their legal rights in relation to property ownership and how this can be passed on to the surviving spouse and children.

Prevention of infection while caring for the sick. The experience of the home care and counselling teams of Chikankata Hospital in rural Zambia shows that simple techniques can minimise the likelihood of children or other family members being infected while caring for the sick and dying.

2. Assisting children whose parents have died

Children whose parents have died of HIV-related illnesses have often also lived through the deaths of others close to them: brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins, friends, and increasingly grandparents. Their material and psychological needs need to be met; their right to remain integral members of their communities and their legal rights may be at risk and need protection. Consideration could be given to the provision of services to all children within an area heavily affected by the epidemic rather than only to those whose parents have died of AIDS. The latter approach may lead to resentment and stigmatisation of children who receive targeted assistance.

Components of this programme element could include:

Minimising children’s psychological and emotional trauma. The grief and loss for all living within this epidemic can be overwhelming, but may be particularly so for children who watch their family members die one after another. Such children not only suffer emotional pain but may also experience long-term psycho-social distress. Grief and depression may be evident or they may be expressed through behavioural problems. Experience with traumatised Mozambican refugee children, and in villages in Masaka and Rakai districts in Uganda, has shown that community-based activities such as play groups can help children recover. Normalisation of daily life, like continuing to attend school, is also important.

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Keeping survivors as integral members of their communities. This will necessitate attitudinal change where discrimination and stigma toward survivors exist. It will also require the provision of care and shelter within the children's families or communities. One significant advantage of care within the children's own community is that relationships can be maintained which will be important as the children grow older.

Basic material needs. The basic needs of affected families such as food, blankets and financial assistance, need to be met on an ongoing basis.

Education, training and employment creation. Formal education, vocational training, non-formal skills training and the provision of necessary tools and equipment, can help children support themselves.

Children's social and adolescent's development needs. To grow and develop into an adult capable of constructive social interaction, children need to be nurtured and stimulated. Such developmental needs have important implications for the type of care which is appropriate for children and adolescents whose parents have died. Family-based care in a child's own community generally provides the best opportunities for promoting positive psycho-social development.

Children's and adolescent's sexual development needs. Sexually active adolescents generally lack access to information services for sexually transmitted infections and to condoms, particularly sizes to fit boys. They also lack opportunities to discuss these issues with each other or others whom they respect.

Children and adolescents who have cared for and then watched the adults in their lives die one by one and who know that these deaths are linked to the expression of sexuality may well experience problems as they move into puberty and into adulthood. There is no precedent for the extent or types of these problems. Community workers, religious leaders and others, will need to be aware of these possibilities and keep communities aware of what is happening.

3. Meeting the special needs of HIV-infected children

As with adults, most asymptomatic HIV-infected children do not know that they are infected. Simple infection control procedures can protect all family members or institutional workers from transmission of the virus. Both mandatory and voluntary testing has been advocated to determine the HIV status of orphans. However, there are serious ethical issues involved in testing and disclosure of results to children. Issues which need to be determined include: who wants to know and why? will it benefit the child to be tested and know? how? who should determine this and how? can a child give informed consent to testing?

Support to families with a sick child. One of the most effective ways of supporting a sick child is by providing support to the family caring for it, particularly by helping them deal with the trauma of the diagnosis.

Promotion of non-discrimination policies and programmes. Enforcement of existing laws or establishment of new ones may be necessary to ensure the rights of HIV-infected children. For example, inheritance laws, both customary and modern, may have to be reviewed or enforced to ensure that infected children have access to their parent’s property for support. Adoption laws may need to be made more flexible to facilitate care for children and anti-discrimination laws will need to be established and/or enforced. Creating a community environment where HIV positive children can be placed with families, can help reduce discrimination against these children. Families of children with an infected child should be supported if they desire to stay together.

4. Reaching children and adolescents who are especially vulnerable

Children at particular risk of destitution and of HIV infection include urban families without the support of their extended families, families who for whatever reasons, lack the support of their communities, children on the streets and children suffering sexual abuse. For many of these young people, survival sex; sex in exchange for money, clothing, affection, shelter, food etc., is a basic coping strategy.

Components of this programme element could include:

Assistance to street children. Special strategies need to be developed to help children living on the street to have greater control over their lives, to have the means to avoid infection and to seek alternatives to the street.

Reducing the susceptibility of young women to infection. Girls and young women may be particularly susceptible to HIV infection not only because they are less able to control the situations in which they have intercourse but also because their genital area provides less of a barrier to the virus.

5. Reducing the number of affected children

Highest priority must be given to bringing about the attitudinal and behavioural change and the change in community norms and values required to bring this about.

Programme strategy

The breadth and diversity of the interventions required to respond adequately to the needs of children in families affected by the HIV epidemic, present particular challenges to programme development and implementation. If the five programme elements just outlined are to be achieved,
there must be an overarching programme strategy which is to create an environment that will encourage and support the necessary changes.

1. Assess needs, monitor the situation and its impact.

2. Create national awareness and engagement.

3. Develop national policy framework.

4. Create consensus on the most effective and sustainable responses.

5. Develop mechanisms to ensure resources are used effectively and equitably.

6. Strengthen national capacity to implement the programme.

Conclusion

Families and communities are the first to respond to the needs of children in affected families. Consequently, government and agency policies and programmes to benefit these children will need to focus primarily on how they can support families and communities to provide for their needs. The emphasis will be on supporting, and, where necessary, establishing sustainable family and community-based efforts. For this to happen, an enabling environment is required in which public awareness and government policies and programmes include the full range of children’s psychological, social, material, legal and spiritual needs.

Children without families

Mark Kelly, National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University

Oh Cambodia, where have your proud children gone?

I have never seen so many children begging in the streets of Phnom Penh!

I do not recall gangs of street kids marauding at night in the dark streets of Phnom Penh and Battambang, when they should [be] home ... in bed, comforted by loving and caring parents. What have they done all day long?

Darith Nhieim

Introduction

For many years, children have been a major focus of development statistics; infant mortality rates, under five mortality rates, dysentery death rates are often quoted as indicators of health and development. Many international aid organisations concentrate largely on the reduction of the number of dying children, but a society's responsibility to their children does not end with keeping them alive. Guiding and raising children is vital to the continuance of an organised society, yet many children are without families to protect and teach them. Countries that have suffered armed conflict have disproportionate numbers of children compared to their adult populations eg. Cambodia in which 44.9 per cent of the population is under the age of 15 years (Economic Intelligence Unit 1993:85). AIDS is taking its toll on many countries, which is demonstrated by Uganda's 600,000 AIDS orphans (UNICEF 1991:8).

One consequence of vast numbers of orphans is the killing of street children by gangs and vigilantes in various countries (Padmini 1993:8), which was recently highlighted in Brazil with the 'assassination of a number of street children by death squads' (Lusk 1992:297).

The purpose of this paper is to explore the reasons for children being without families. It is hoped this will provide a foundation upon which further research can be pursued, to facilitate the development of realistic solutions to an ever increasing problem. With over 250,000 children dying each week (Meier 1989:443), often due to a lack of protection, the need for providing for these children can be measured in quantifiable terms.

Families

A 'family' has disparate definitions across countries and cultures, and includes both nuclear and extended families. For the purposes of this paper, the meaning of 'family' is narrowed to have the child at the focus, not parents or guardians. The wider functions of families within a society are often very different from their individual experiences. Thus it is that numerous cases can be cited where parents have sold their children into slavery or prostitution. It must be recognised that family dysfunction occurs which can lead to abuse and exploitation by the family. Irrespective of regional differences, however, families around the world have two broad roles with regard to children.

Firstly, protecting the child from harm is necessary, since
‘children rarely have political power, wealth or control of societies’ main institutions. Thus without a family for protection, the possibility of exploitation becomes heightened. Evidence of this situation can be observed in most countries, with some particularly notable examples. Thailand’s child prostitution and sweat shops have received strong media attention due to international laws being set in place to prosecute paedophiles. India’s carpet manufacturing industry has received similar attention due to bonded children required to work 16 to 18 hour days (Lee-Wright 1990).

Secondly from an economic-welfare perspective, families should be responsible for raising the fuure generation of productive labour. Teaching children to become capable within the general framework of society is an integral part of a child’s life; formulating responsibility, acquiring life skills, enabling productivity and facilitating independence. Achieving these goals is often obtained by the inherent nature of pre-industrial families existing ‘at the core of most social, economic and political relationships’ (Hulme and Turner 1990:83). When these roles are not fulfilled, a child’s future can be a burden, instead of a benefit to the state.

Reasons children are without families

Family structures are frequently altered as societal transition occurs. Three principle reasons for major societal change are wars, disease and industrialisation, for example, the World Wars, cholera epidemics and the English industrial revolution.

One of the most common reasons for the lack of a family in the twentieth century, has been the incidence of war. The pattern of war is one that has seen a dramatic increase of civilian casualties over the past eighty years.

Only 5 per cent of the casualties in the First World War were civilians. By the Second World War, the proportion had risen to 50 per cent. And, as the century ends, the civilian share is normally about 80 per cent - most of them women and children (UNICEF 1992:26).

‘Modern’ methods of warfare continue to destroy the lives of children. In Central America, guerrilla counter-insurgency techniques are used to isolate subsversives from their support network. In essence, this ideology advocates indiscriminate destruction of towns, villages and crops of any actual or potential subsersive activists (Ronstrom 1989:146). The effect is the separation of children from parents, either through displacement programmes, or death.

During the reign of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, it is estimated that between one and two million people died from hunger, disease, torture or extermination (Nichols 1990:13; Mysliwiec 1988:7-8). One result of this brutality was a massive increase of orphaned children; from 160 in 1970, to approximately 250,000 in 1979 (UNICEF 1990:126-127). This is reflective of many areas of the world, where children are caught in the middle of conflict, leading to an estimated 10 million children who have suffered psychological trauma (UNICEF1992:26), which is compounded where they have no family for support (Salm 1992:61).

Disease has been a major factor in many societies, and has altered the family structure. Europe during the 1600s was decimated by the bubonic plague, leaving many children without parental support. With the world now confronted by AIDS, the spread of the virus is leading to whole communities being afflicted, with the parental generation dying, leaving children to be either cared for by grandparents, or left without any support. The African continent is particularly prone to the spread of AIDS, with the doubling of reported cases occurring every 8.4 months from 1986 to 1989 (UN 1989:22). The rapid spread of the virus will continue to engulf many societies, leading to greater numbers of children without families. The World Health Organization (WHO), additionally claimed that by the year 2000, 10 million AIDS orphans will survive their parents, with 90 per cent in the continent of Africa (UNICEF 1991b:6). Coupling the vast numbers of orphans with occurrences of relatives refusing to help the afflicted, a situation seldom reported before the advent of AIDS, the magnitude of the tragedy is heightened (Reid 1988:40). Yet AIDS is not the only illness affecting poorer populations; hepatitis, polio, cholera, dysentery, the list goes on! Although a vast amount of effort is exerted in the containment of these diseases and illnesses, the symptom of orphaned children must also be addressed.

Industrialisation has also had a major impact upon children not having families. England’s societal response to the industrial revolution was a drastic one as migration from rural to urban areas occurred. Families consolidated from their previous extended state, to become introspectively oriented as the nuclear family. As children became involved in factory labour, they were removed from their parents’ supervision leading to a lack of control, and thus a breakdown in family interdependence. Many societies are facing similar problems as their countries undergo industrialisation. In the current world, the nuclear family is still far more susceptible to disintegration than the extended family, since:

Beyond the reach of the traditional sanctions which, in the countryside, required adults to obey the rules of marriage and meet their family responsibilities, values were destroyed and the bonds of kinship disintegrated (Black 1987:235).

With the external global pressure for the success of industrialisation, children are often placed in great danger in order to fulfil production requirements. Where they also have no parents, the level of exploitation increases...
dramatically. Lee-Wright (1990) described many countries that are pursuing industrialisation at the expense of their younger generation. Compounding this problem is the willingness of some families to sell their children into bonded labour or prostitution, frequently due to ignorance or abject poverty. Surely this situation deserves the attention and action of the global community!

Conclusion

The escalation of war, disease, and industrialisation during the twentieth century is leading to rapid changes across the globe. One of the most serious and expanding problems is the exploitation of children due to their lack of families. Conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia, the Gaza Strip; the spread of AIDS through child prostitutes in Bangkok; Bangladesh's increased urbanisation for industrialisation; all lead to children not having the protection and teaching of a family. While these issues are dealt with at the problem level, for example trying to stop wars, the symptom of children without families remains unsolved. This requires additional investigation of the dilemma on the symptomatic plane.

The issues that arise from this research are multi-faceted. It must be recognised that no one solution will provide an all encompassing panacea. Dilemmas such as culture, finances, political pressure and organisational structure of the country, must all be addressed. Additionally, many children may not want help - they are so constrained within the street or homeless culture, that 'traditional' solutions simply do not operate (Lee-Wright 1990:263). The world's communities need to become innovative and imaginative to provide solutions to these problems. A final word can be left to Lee-Wright, who stated that:

Unlike minerals, there is no finite source of children. Thus, by universally understood values, they are not precious at all. They only begin to have value when they become units of production, or saleable commodities (1990:266).

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Orphans - from famine, war - and now AIDS

It is estimated that by the year 1994 in Ethiopia there will be 39,500 orphans who have lost their parents due to AIDS. By 1996 this figure might be 95,000. WHO predicts that before the mid 1990s AIDS will cause more child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa than malaria and measles. Life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa could fall to 47 years by the end of the century, instead of the 62 years expected in the absence of AIDS.

Ageing: Some impacts on the family in Fiji

Nii-K Plange, Department of Sociology, University of the South Pacific

Introduction

In Fiji, predominant social thought and practice of the care of the elderly, that is population 60 years and over, has traditionally been associated with values and norms of parent-child relations, responsibility and reciprocity. Aged parents are seen as the responsibility of their children, relatives and extended family with relationships which extend to whole villages and communities. This is true not only of ethnic Fijians, but other ethnic groups especially Indo-Fijians, also practise family care of the elderly. For reasons of tradition, responsibility, and pride, institutional care in Fiji for the elderly remains minimal. To date there are only about six Homes for the elderly accommodating less than four hundred persons, or under one per cent of the total elderly population of about 45,000. Government health care policy takes little note of the elderly, and there are no old-age pension assistance payments. Families then, have borne and continue to bear, the brunt of the responsibilities of care for health, daily living, medical expenses etc., of their elderly members against the backdrop of tradition and its obligatory norms.

However, the general socio-economic context within which elders were taken care of and absorbed within extended family households, is changing rapidly. There is an historical as well as a structural problem of maintaining traditional practice without the totality of traditional context and social organisation.

What then are the difficulties of, and impact on, continuing caring and bearing of responsibilities of the family, especially in the face of changing needs, rising prices, inflation, unemployment, underemployment and increasing levels of poverty, as well as migration, urbanisation and education?

The family, household and care of the elderly

Traditionally, extended family households have been large. Within them, resources were mobilised and distributed equitably for the care of all including the elderly. Recent changes in Fiji’s social organisation, underscored by aspects of economic development, urbanisation, education and employment, have produced an impact on the household and undermined its resources, creating considerable concern among carers of the elderly (Plange 1992). Household size has shown a steady decrease over the past two and a half decades: from 6.6 in 1966 to 6.0 in 1976 and 5.6 in 1986 (Census Reports, 1966, 1979, 1986). In some rural areas households have shrunk to as low as 5.0. Recent data collected as a tracer study bear this out, as does another study of the lifestyles of young urban and single workers (Plange 1992). Generally the assumption has been that absence is compensated for by remittances. However, remittances have remained small and infrequent. Available data show that only 37 per cent of absentee siblings remit to the care of elderly parents and the frequency of remittance remains erratic.

Table 1: Sibling contribution to care by remittance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Send money to parents</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Plange, N. 1992
Note: Responses were by provided by carers of the elderly

Table 2: Frequency of remittances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once in while</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only when called</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not send</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>59.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Plange, N. 1992
Note: In all cases, the median point of total amount remitted is about $30.00

Lack of adequate remittances has not yet undermined the tradition of family care. It is, however, beginning to take its toll as carers ponder on possibilities of institutional care or other alternatives as complementary support systems (Plange 1992). Available data show that 7 per cent and 18 per cent respectively of carers would or might consider institutional care. This is borne out by a reported increase in enquiries at the Homes of the elderly care (Singh 1993). A clear indication of the impact of recent changes in family care of the elderly is the increasing numbers of ethnic Fijians either in the Homes for the elderly in Fiji, or making enquiries at the Homes (Plange 1993).
The concern of the carers of the elderly about increasing enquiries is underscored by the fact that most of the contemporary elderly had low skills in their adult years and worked at jobs which provided no pensions. Or when pensions are available they are too small to provide adequate subsistence. Such a lack of resources means that many elderly people became 'socially disabled', that is the lack of sufficient means to maintain well-being (Plange 1991). This then impacts heavily on family's resources since economic means, not in kind but in cash, have become important in contemporary Fiji society.

Meeting the needs of the household and the elderly

The needs of the elderly impact on overall household finances already affected by low wages, infrequent remittances and unemployment and throw up the dilemma of inter-generational needs and equity within families and households. The specific needs of family elders appear to be medicines, transportation and special foods. In addition to carers and families meeting the general needs of the household, 21 per cent of carer families (out of a sample population of 524) reported having to meet elderly specific needs all the time, 27.5 per cent do this about once a month and 9 per cent once a week. Among these families, 14 per cent reported facing difficulties in providing finances to maintain these needs, while another 20 per cent reported occasional difficulties. Consequently other relations are relied upon for assistance: 19 per cent reported seeking assistance when in need. Within the household and the family, the clash of inter-generational demands appear when different needs are in need of satisfaction simultaneously. Happily, and in support of the continuing strength of the family, about 82 per cent of respondents would give priority to the needs of elderly parents or relatives in the household.

While this demonstrates traditional feelings about elderly care, it nevertheless indicates that some household needs have to be sacrificed. The implication is, that the family is unable to meet all its needs especially food (Plange 1991). Data available indicate that about 59 per cent of families caring for their elders felt that the amount of money spent either daily, weekly or monthly is not enough to meet household needs. The amount spent varies between $40 per week (65 per cent of respondents); $41 - $60 per week (19 per cent) and $60 per week (16 per cent). Reasons provided for lack of satisfaction of needs were increasing cost of basic food items, inflation and unemployment of some members of the household. From this and from the increasing family concerns about elderly members and their previous contribution to the society, many people, especially carer-families, now feel that government should provide some economic and social support for the elderly. This sentiment appears to cut across all income, age and ethnic categories. Overall, 84 per cent of respondents in a recent survey felt that government support is needed in the area of caring for the elderly.

Longevity and family care and concerns

An aspect of the ageing experience globally, is the epidemiological transition based on developments in health services, which have lessened infant mortality and increased life expectancy. Together, these two 'transitions' translate into longevity. In societies with traditions of family care of elders within households, the household begins to change and to create problems of caring for the elderly, when the young and able bodied migrate in search of jobs, and education or even the contemporary desire of the young to live by themselves (Plange 1993a).

Increasing departures of young women to work in the tourist industry or the garment and textile industry, is removing the traditional household support for carers of the elderly either permanently or periodically (Plange 1993b).

This situation will soon create in Fiji elderly families and households with persons aged 60-65 living with, and taking care of, their parents, 80 years and over. The impact is likely to be severe on such families with fixed incomes, probably from one source. Increasing levels of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, stroke etc., in both these age groups, means that such households will face serious difficulties meeting health care costs. Pockets of such situations already exist and will certainly increase. Available data indicate that currently about 24 per cent of heads of households and families caring for the elderly are in their mid-forties. This means by the year 2010 there will be an increase in multiple elderly households. With one income package, or in some cases none, to provide for basic needs, and the need for someone at home to provide daily care, the absence of the young and the adults from home; some families will be pressed into seeking assistance. With relations and kinsfolk facing similar problems, the assistance will have to come from beyond kin - from government or non-government organisations.

Some NGOs are already active in the scene. Among these, the HelpAge Centre is the most active as it provides elderly-specific needs to families and is already faced with a deluge of requests. This emphasises the impact of ageing on the family in Fiji.

Conclusion

The traditional family in Fiji has demonstrated considerable strength and resilience in caring for the elderly with minimal government support. However, epidemiological and demographic changes leading to longevity and changes within the economy leading to unemployment, low income and migration, are all slowly eroding the ability of the family to deal with the situation. There are now 'cracks' in the family's fortifications causing an increase in interest in relation to government assistance and some need of support from non-government organisations. The impact on the family will certainly

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increase with time and increase pressure on government to begin to seriously consider policies on elderly-specific needs perhaps in support of families caring for the elderly.

The family in East and SouthEast Asia

Bruce Caldwell, Population and Health, AIDAB

This paper is a summary of a paper prepared for ESCAP for the Asian Pacific Preparatory Meeting of the International Year of the Family held in Beijing on 24 to 28 May 1993. This summary version concentrates on a few of the most important changes occurring in the region. Necessarily, given the breadth and diversity of the region, the conclusions drawn are extremely general and do not fully apply to any particular country.

Introduction

East and SouthEast Asia is undergoing unprecedented social and economic change. Rapid economic growth has been accompanied by dramatic improvements in health and life expectancies, and only slightly less spectacular declines in fertility. The family has played an important role in all these developments.

The East and SouthEast Asian family is the major institution for socialisation of children and youth, including the provision of early education. It is the locus of the individual’s primary social relationships, including relations between the sexes and between the old and the young. The family remains the primary institution for providing care to individuals in need, dependent children, the old, the disabled, the unemployed, deserted women, orphans and others. Nevertheless, despite considerable persistence of traditional family patterns, the nature of the East and SouthEast Asian family is changing.

Traditional families in East and SouthEast Asia

The traditional family varied greatly in its structure and its role across the East and SouthEast Asian sub-region, though a number of common characteristics such as respect for the old were evident. At a very general level, a distinction can be made between the traditional family systems of East Asia and SouthEast Asia. Families in the former societies tended to be more extended in their membership, more patriarchal with a strong emphasis on male authority and the patrilineage, and with women, in China at least, being largely restricted to the home. In the latter, there was more emphasis on the elementary nuclear family and on bilateral kinship relations and inheritance, and with women having comparatively greater authority and autonomy.

China

The traditional Confucian model of the Chinese family was of a multigenerational household linked through the males and ideally living in one dwelling. The family consisted of a patriarch, his wife, their sons, daughters-in-law, unmarried daughters, grandsons, granddaughters-in-law and so on. The patriarch, in theory at least, had almost total authority.

The couple resided with the husband’s parents after marriage, and exogamy was practised. This had the effect of cutting the bride off from her family of birth and making her totally dependent on the family into which she had married. A bride’s position depended almost entirely on pleasing her husband’s family. This was often a difficult task as she was subordinate to both the men of her husband’s family as well as the older women. She only truly became a full member of the family upon bearing children, especially sons.

World Health Organisation, Regional Office of the Western Pacific, Manila.

Plange, N. 1993a, Living and life-style of young, single, urban workers in Fiji, on-going research based on this survey.


Singh, Ms A., Supervisor of Samabula Old Peoples Home, personal communication.
Japan and Korea

Traditional Japanese and Korean families were greatly influenced by the Chinese model of the Confucian family but there were important differences. A key difference between the Chinese and Japanese families was that while vertical links to parents were very important in both, horizontal links between brothers were much weaker in Japan. As distinct from the Chinese joint family based on strong agnatic ties between the menfolk, the ideal Japanese family was a stem family tying sons to their father and his ancestors. Inheritance was by primogeniture with property and responsibility for the care of elderly parents normally going to the eldest son, the other sons having to establish their own homes.

SouthEast Asia

In contrast to East Asia, the traditional SouthEast Asian family system was based on the nuclear family. A household rarely contained more than one economically active married couple. Immediately after marriage a couple might live with either the husband's or the wife's family, but in most countries separated as soon as they could support themselves, and their food budget would usually be kept distinct even while they lived together. The family was bilateral with strong ties with the wife's family as with the husband's. The wife was able to call freely upon support from her relatives if in need. In contrast to the traditional Chinese family, where a young wife could be treated as an outsider, in the SouthEast family the household was largely her domain.

Families in East and SouthEast Asia today

The current rapid pace of economic and social development in East and SouthEast Asia clearly cannot but affect the family, and how the family responds is of major importance to its future structure and function. Major changes are occurring with regard to the role of the family in society, the character of intra-family relations, and the size, composition and structure of the family. Yet alongside these changes can be observed a number of important continuities. While the family in many parts of East and SouthEast Asia is losing its role as the unit of production and to a lesser degree as the principal institution for the socialisation and education of its children, it retains its responsibilities for caring for those unable to care for themselves, including the disabled, the young and the old.

The declining role of the family in society

The decline of the family as a unit of production means that those in authority have less control over family affairs. Whereas in the past, when they supervised the family economy, the older generation could exercise greater authority, they are now increasingly dependent on the independent earnings of more junior members, while the latter are less dependent on the family and in particular on senior family members.

At the same time, the family responsibility for the socialisation and education of the young has been diminished, in particular by the formal school system. The traditional lore and expertise passed down through the generations within the family is now less relevant than learning about modern technology or the means of coping in the modern city. The family is still the primary agent for the socialisation of young children, but in the education of older children it has taken an increasingly auxiliary, supportive role. However, although the family no longer has sole responsibility for children’s education, the learning period is much longer than previously, and this requires more from the family, especially financially, before the children are in a position to contribute to the family’s resources. It has also become more difficult in many cases for families to assist individuals in need, because the emergence of work opportunities overseas has meant that many family members have moved away from their kin, often permanently.

While the family's role in society is diminishing, increasing demands are being made of the individual who is increasingly required to possess technical qualifications and skills for employment, for social status and even for marriage. Whereas people's position in society and their wealth were formerly determined by the family into which they were born, their personal capabilities are now increasingly important.

In sum, the family has been excluded from many previously important roles while, simultaneously, many of the supports of the traditional family system have broken down. Despite these important changes, there is little indication that the family itself is dissolving. Respect for the elderly remains widespread and most people expect their families to look after them in their old age.

Furthermore, the family continues to be the principal provider of care for children, and the first place of succour for those in need.

Changes in intra-family relations

In the traditional family in East and SouthEast Asia, authority was based on respect for those senior to oneself, a seniority based upon age and, particularly in East Asia, gender. This respect was buttressed by the elders' control of resources, especially land. Above all, it was legitimised by the knowledge and experience possessed by the older members of the family.

For the contemporary family in East and SouthEast Asia, these sources of authority have been attenuated. Family-controlled land and other resources are much less important than they were. Largely for this reason marriage is increasingly the private concern of the principals involved, though they still often consult their families. Furthermore, the wisdom of the elders in an increasingly
Technological society is becoming less relevant. In many Asian societies the young do not believe that the old are equipped to understand the new society.

It is the younger people who, through activities outside the family, increasingly earn most of the family's income. This is particularly true in the case of wage and salary earners but it is also true of traders and even of commercial agriculturalists for it is the young who now have the formal education and the street smartness necessary for success in the modern world.

Consequently, the dependency relationship between young and old within the family is being reversed. Whereas traditionally the old contributed their property, knowledge and managerial abilities in return for respect and care, now they have comparatively little to contribute, and their requirements are increasing as life expectancy rises.

The status of women and the companionate marriage

It was predicted some years ago that Asian family systems would converge with the model of the Western nuclear family based on a close conjugal marriage with a much more egalitarian relationship between the sexes.

In the traditional East Asian patrilineal family, the union of the young couple was subordinated to the interests of the wider family and especially to the interests of those in authority, the senior generation. Marriage was regarded as being partly for the purposes of adding to the family's female work force but primarily for the purpose of bearing children and continuing the family line.

One of the main dangers to the patrilineal family was the development of too close a relationship between the young husband and his wife.

The economic success of the family also depended on obtaining maximum work and obedience from family members, especially daughters-in-law. This was only possible if the young woman's husband did not take her side to reduce her burden or to question the obedience she owed to her mother-in-law.

As discussed, recent economic changes have served to reduce the elders' authority and have increased their dependence on the young. Marriage is no longer simply a matter of adding to the household. Who the bride is and what her abilities are have become more important, both because heavier demands are being made of her in terms of raising children, and because her income-earning potential outside the home has risen.

These changes, and especially the shift in the locus of authority, mean that families in East Asia, as in SouthEast Asia, are increasingly consisting of units built around the conjugal couple, when more than one such related couple are living under the same roof, rather than being part of an integrated joint family. Nevertheless, the increasing dominance of the conjugal unit in both East and SouthEast Asia does not necessarily mean that marriage is now companionate any more than that women's status has been radically transformed.

Families in SouthEast Asia have long been built round the conjugal couple, yet marriage was traditionally based less on a close emotional relationship than on mutual complementarity, though the couple could become increasingly fond of each other over the years. Each made their own contribution to the household, but their strongest relationships were often with relatives and friends of their own sex with whom they worked and socialised. It is the weak conjugal relationship that, in part, explains the high divorce rates that formerly prevailed in Indonesia and Malaysia.

There is scattered evidence of a desire for a more companionate marriage, but it is clear that in many SouthEast and East Asian societies a companionate relationship between the spouses is secondary to the family as an institution for the procreation and raising of children, division of labour and fulfilment of obligations to one's kin.

One consequence of the retention of the complemenary marriage model is that families have found it difficult to adjust to changes in women's roles outside the family. An increasing proportion of women are now working outside the family, yet there are continuing expectations that they will continue to fulfil their duties as housewives.

Women's participation in the work force

This development has not always been of women's own volition. Women are to some extent being forced out of the home by economic circumstances, as exemplified by the decline of many traditional cottage industries. As urban living spreads, women no longer have access to the products they once made and traded in the neighbourhood.

Nevertheless, the very act of entering the workforce and earning a separate income is of great importance. When a woman works in the household even though she is contributing to household welfare and very often to household income, her work is usually little appreciated, having low status and being difficult to distinguish from the contributions of other family members. When her income is separate and although she may not have full control over it, its contribution to the family is evident, and almost inevitably results in greater female autonomy.

The ability to earn a separate income and the autonomy that accompanies it means that marriage and having a family need no longer be central to a woman's life, raising the possibility of delaying marriage or not marrying at all. Age at marriage for women has risen throughout East
Asia and SouthEast Asia from a position where once most women married in their teens, now marriage generally occurs in the mid-twenties. East Asia in particular, now has among the highest female marriage ages in the world. However, remaining single is still much less accepted in East and SouthEast Asian societies, while the lower levels of social security faced by the unmarried still mean that they face greater problems in time of need, especially later in life.

Ageing and the family

The proportion of elderly population in East and SouthEast Asia is, with the exception of Japan, very low by Western standards owing to the high fertility rates which have prevailed until recently. The proportion of the population over the age of 65 in 1990 was estimated to be 6.3 per cent (up from 4.7 per cent in 1975) in East Asia, and only 3.9 per cent in SouthEast Asia. In contrast, the equivalent figure in Europe was 13.4 per cent. However, the dramatic falls in fertility in the sub-region will lead to a rapid ageing of the sub-regional population in the coming decades.

The ability of the countries of the sub-region to cope with the strains of population ageing will depend largely on how the family, the primary institution of care for the elderly, will respond to the challenge. This will depend very much on the impact of such changes as those in intrafamily relations and household composition.

Two primary types of assistance are provided by the family for the old: economic support and physical care. In most East and SouthEast Asian societies, financial support from the family continues to be vital to the elderly. Pension schemes typically cover only a minority of the elderly and are generally inadequate. Where the elderly control the family’s resources this is not a major problem, but where the family’s income derives from wage or salary employment the old inevitably are much more dependent on the goodwill of the young.

The burden of having to support the old financially should be kept in perspective. Projected dependency ratios for East and SouthEast Asia indicate that the proportion of the dependent population will actually fall in most countries in the next few decades, before rising (after 2020) back to current levels, a phenomenon caused primarily by a steep decline in the proportion of children under 15 years of age. Furthermore, the dependency ratio, defined as it normally is in terms of crude age, does not accurately reflect true dependency levels. The proportion of the population in the labour force is likely to increase as more women work outside the home. In addition, other countries in the sub-region could start following the Japanese example, with a sizable proportion of the population over 65 continuing to work.

A potentially greater problem for the future is the provision of care. There has been a decline in the proportion of the old living with their children in Japan and Taiwan Province, though a majority continue to do so. The problem is primarily one of women; old men are generally cared for by their wives who are on average several years younger and healthier, as well as increasingly having greater life expectancies.

A second issue concerns the ability of working women to provide care. Women are still expected to be the carers, as well as do the housework, yet the proportion of women working outside the home is rapidly increasing; indeed part of the reason why fertility is falling is to enable women to work outside the home. Where the old are themselves healthy, many in fact assist with housework and child care, but where they require care the working woman may have to make sacrifices, often giving up her job. It may later be difficult for her to re-enter the labour force because she has surrendered her seniority and has to compete with much younger and often more trained women and men.

Fertility, mortality and age structure

The changes in intrafamilial relations outlined above are important not just in terms of the status of the old and the young, and women and men, but also in terms of the care of children and of the old. There is considerable evidence that in traditional extended families, such as the Chinese joint family, too much attention paid to children was frowned upon because it was contrary to the emphasis upon seniority. The decline in mortality in recent years in East Asia, might, at least in part, be due to the increased authority that mothers have over their own children. They no longer require the agreement of the husband or his parents to seek health care. Also, with lengthening education curricula, the cost of children has risen as they have to be supported for many years before they are in a position to provide any economic return to the family. Furthermore, the long-term financial benefits of children to the family have become much less certain as the older generation’s control over the earnings of the young has weakened. At the same time, with woman’s position in the family no longer primarily dependent on their ability to bear children but instead increasingly linked to their income-earning ability in the labour market, the impulse for them to produce children has receded.

Whatever the cause of fertility decline, in itself it has major implications for household size and composition, as well as for the age structure of society with positive and negative benefits. A slower population growth rate initially reduces the dependency ratio allowing faster per capita growth given a fixed overall growth rate. Fewer resources have to be invested in new infrastructure and so resources can be invested more productively. A smaller number of children reduces the burden on women and allows them to enter the workforce. Attention and investment can be focused on fewer children, a change which is increasingly necessary as more advanced economies require more trained people. Ultimately, however, lower fertility rates

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and longer life expectancy mean an older population, increased old-age dependency and higher associated caring and health costs. Much of this burden will fall on the family and, in particular, on women.

**Government policy and the family**

In view of the vital role that the East and SouthEast Asian family plays in ensuring economic, social and psychological well-being, raising the young, caring for the elderly and protection of other vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, the impact of government policies on the structure and function of the family in East and SouthEast Asia needs to be carefully considered. Governments throughout the sub-region have in recent decades focused their attention primarily on the promotion of economic growth. In that effort, they have given little thought to the implications of their actions on the family. Most countries in the sub-region, in fact, lack direct or explicit family policies, although many of their policies aimed at the promotion of economic growth have had a profound effect on the family.

**Family planning**

A major exception to the foregoing statement is that most East and SouthEast Asian countries have active family planning programmes. Those programmes have had a major impact in reducing the rate of population growth and hence the dependency burden on families. This has allowed more investment per child, particularly in education, and has provided women with more 'free' time thus facilitating their entry into the labour force. Family planning has also been associated with better health for children, as each child receives more attention and care. Death rates among mothers have also declined as the ill-health and maternal mortality associated with child-bearing have been reduced. With falling fertility, however, governments need to give consideration to fine-tuning the emphasis of those programmes from simply controlling population numbers to assisting individual families in fulfilling their responsibilities to their individual members. While high fertility is undesirable for the family, there may also be problems with very low fertility. A number of East and SouthEast Asian countries and territories have attained fertility rates below the long-term replacement level of two children per woman. While the long-term burden on families of care for the elderly is not too great at replacement-rate fertility, the situation in societies below replacement-rate fertility would imply families in future having to care for more than one elderly couple, probably an unsustainable situation.

**Social security**

Social security policy is highly relevant to the ability of families to function effectively. The family is, in effect, the main provider of social security in East and SouthEast Asia. If it were to fail to provide this critical service, the social welfare costs would be horrendous and unaffordable in most countries. Any social security programme should complement rather than replace the family in this respect. A particular case is the position of those who do not have families to support them, for example the childless elderly, or families that lack a breadwinner - often headed by a single woman.

**Welfare schemes**

An important place in any national social development strategy in East and SouthEast Asia must be assigned to community care to assist families in coping with the burden of dependent care. Irrespective of the overall trends in the structure and function of the family in the sub-region, substantial numbers of families finding it exceedingly difficult to cope with the dependency situations with which they are burdened. The provision of occasional care to families in need, for example, can prevent the build-up of intrafamily tension and possible family dissolution. While the state should act with caution there is a continuing need for community support of families who are faltering under the pressures of rapid economic and social change.

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**Child death rates down**

*Under-five deaths per 1000 births in the developing world*

Under five mortality rates have been cut in half in the last 30 years. Despite population growth, the absolute number of child deaths is also declining. There are today an estimated 13 million child deaths a year or about 35,000 per day - down from 15 million, or more than 40,000 a day, in the early 1980s.

About two thirds of those deaths occur in just ten countries. Population size is not the only factor. China and India have about the same number of births - but India has three times as many child deaths. Nor is economic level necessarily decisive.

This article presents a comparative overview of the family in the Pacific island region. The availability of data on the family as such is limited, but useful information has been obtained from data on women and children (such as marriage and childbearing) and on households.

Family formation

The process of family formation generally begins when two people marry, or form a de-facto marriage. The age at which people marry varies considerably around the Pacific, and between men and women as shown in Figure 1. For males, the average age at first marriage ranges from 21 years (PNG, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati) to 28 years (French Polynesia, Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Northern Mariana Islands). Men tend to marry somewhat later than women, with an average age ranging from 24 years (Marshall Islands) to 30 years (French Polynesia and New Caledonia). Men generally marry between two and four years later than women and the age difference between the spouses is usually greater when women marry at younger ages.

Estimates of the average age of women at the birth of their first child are only available for a few countries, but they indicate that the range involved is much narrower than for age at marriage: from about 21 years in the Cook Islands to just under 23 years in Kiribati. The difference between this and the age at marriage suggests that cultural factors are important in determining the relative timing of the first birth. In the Cook Islands first births precede marriage by almost 2 years on average, while first births to ethnic Fijians occur within one or two months of marriage and, for the Indian population of Fiji and Kiribati, first births occur an average of 1.2 years after marriage (Booth, forthcoming).

The birth of the first child may occur before or after marriage. Births to young unmarried women are usually absorbed into the existing family, so there is no new family formed. The frequency of births to teenage women whether or not they are married, is shown in Table 1: Marshallese women have an average of 0.81 births during their teenage years compared to only 0.13 in Western Samoa. Teenage fertility comprises more than 10 per cent of total fertility in the Cook Islands, Guam, Marshall Islands and Northern Mariana Islands compared to only 3 per cent in Tonga and Western Samoa. When compared to female average age at marriage, some indication of the magnitude of births to unmarried teenagers is seen: the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu have a similar average age at first marriage (21 years) but Marshallese teenagers are four times as likely to have a birth as Tuvaluan teenagers, whilst Cook Islander and New Caledonian women have a similar late age at marriage but births to teenagers are twice as common in the Cook Islands than in New Caledonia (see Table 1).

There is also considerable variation between countries in the number of children women have. In New Caledonia, the average is 2.9 children, while in the Marshall Islands the average number of children born per woman is 7.2. In lower fertility countries women generally stop giving birth by the time they are 40; for instance in Guam only 1 in 23 women give birth after that age. This contrasts with the higher fertility countries such as Marshall Islands, Nauru and Solomon Islands, where more than 1 in 4 women give birth in their forties.

Family survival

There are many factors that can contribute to the disruption of family formation, including the mortality of children and women. Infant mortality rates and under-five mortality rates are shown in Table 2. The probability of a child dying in the first year of its life ranges from 9 per 1000 (Guam) to 72 per 1000 (PNG). The chances of death at ages 1 to 4 years ranges from 1 per 1000 (Guam and American Samoa) to 45 per 1000 (PNG). When the number of births per woman is considered, a Marshallese or PNG family has a 1 in 3 chance of at least one child dying before age 1 compared to a 1 in 35 chance for a Guamanian family; and the chance of at least one child dying at ages 1 to 4 years decreases from 1 in 4 for a Marshallese or PNG family.
and childbirth alone (maternal mortality) are in the region to 1 in 27, compared to only 1 in 4900 for Guamanian women.

Household size

Whilst family size is determined by the combined demographic factors of fertility, mortality and migration and socio-cultural factors such as fostering, there are few available data on actual family size. Household size (shown in Table 3) is thus discussed here as a proxy for family size. Average household size ranges from 4.0 persons in Guam and New Caledonia to 8.7 in the Marshall Islands. This range has widened slightly over the last twenty years: the six countries with the largest household sizes in 1990 have all experienced increases (of 0.1 to 1.6 persons per household), whereas the remaining countries experienced decreases (of 0.1 to 1.6 persons per household). The direction and size of the change in household size over the twenty-year period does not appear to be related to size of household in 1970.

Household size might be expected to be lower in urban areas because of limited dwelling size and the erosion of the extended family, especially where western lifestyles have been adopted. In fact, smaller urban households are found in just under half of the countries shown in Table 3, mainly those with a smaller overall household size. Where urban household size is larger, the greatest differentials occur in countries where rural-urban migration is common (migrants stay with relatives) and/

Table 1: Total, teenage and 40+ total fertility rates, Pacific island region

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country/territory</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>TFR at age 40</th>
<th>TFR at age 40+</th>
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Source: Gender-disaggregated data compiled by Booth, H. for UNSTAT, July 1993; Booth, H. 1993.

Table 2: Infant, child and maternal mortality rates, Pacific island region

<table>
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<th>Country/territory</th>
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<td>1986</td>
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Source: Gender-disaggregated data compiled by Booth, H. for UNSTAT, July 1993; Booth, H. 1993.

Note: Probabilities expressed as '1 in x', eg. for Am. Samoa the probability of at least 1 infant death is 1 in 20, based on an average of 4.7 births (see Table 1).
or where new household formation is restricted by land shortages. The latter factor is most notable in the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu where population densities are very high.

Household head

The typical household head is male and aged 25-44. The proportion of households headed by a woman (amongst the 11 countries for which data are available) varies from 11 per cent in Vanuatu to 24 per cent in the Northern Mariana Islands. Leaving aside the age group 15-24, it is seen in Table 4 that the proportion of female headed households is lowest at ages 25-44, due to higher proportions currently married, and the tendency for husbands to be regarded as the household head. The proportion of female-headed households increases with age of household head, as higher male mortality and lower female remarriage rates result in increased proportions of women who are widowed, separated or divorced. At ages 15-24, the proportion of female-headed households varies considerably; from as low as 13 per cent-14 per cent in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu to over 30 per cent in the Northern Mariana Islands (inflated by migrant labour) and Palau.

Conclusion

From this brief overview of the family in the Pacific island region, it is clear that there is no typical Pacific family. Indeed, there is considerable variation. Some association between variables does occur: late marriage, low fertility, low mortality and small household size tend to group together, as in New Caledonia, while the converse, early marriage, high fertility, high mortality, and large household size can be seen in countries such as Marshall Islands. However, there are exceptions to these associations: Tuvalu provides an example of early marriage among women being associated with low overall fertility and low teenage fertility, while the Cook Islands and Guam provide examples of low overall female fertility but high teenage fertility, with the Cook Islands also experiencing late marriage.

Trends and differentials in household size also vary considerably. Changes in overall average size since 1970 show no clear pattern and positive and negative changes have occurred in roughly equal proportions. Urban-rural differences are equally varied. Finally, the proportion of households headed by a female varies from 11 per cent to 24 per cent (and exceeds 30 per cent for certain age groups), a figure which even at its lowest belies the commonly held belief that female-headed households are a rarity in Pacific societies.

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Footnotes

1. Refers to 1980; in general see Tables 1 to 3 for dates of data referred to in text.
2. These are probably upwardly biased: in the Cook Islands, French Polynesia and New Caledonia by the omission of de facto marriage and in the Northern Mariana Islands probably by the recent influx of unmarried migrant labour.

3. The exceptions being Northern Mariana Islands (0.0 years) due to migrant labour, Cook Islands (0.9 years) due to the omission of de facto marriages with absent husband, and Tuvalu (5.3 years) due possibly to the preponderance of seamen.

4. Including territories.

5. Palau excepted.

6. Data on maternal mortality are subject to considerable error and are indicative of orders of magnitude only.

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The family and social and economic change in the Pacific

*Pamela Thomas and David Lucas*

**Introduction**

In the Pacific, as in other developing regions, the word ‘family’ has a number of different interpretations. In this paper, in keeping with the most common Pacific usage, the term ‘family’ will be used to denote those members of a lineage or kin group who maintain social and/or economic links whether or not they live in close physical proximity. ‘Household’ refers to those who share the same residential area, although not necessarily the same building, and usually eat together.

Today’s ‘traditional’ family structures and values in the Pacific are an amalgamation of pre-colonial kinship and political systems, Christian values, and colonial economic and administrative structures. Colonisation and Christianity transformed almost all aspects of family life in the Pacific including marriage and residential patterns, family size, division of labour, economic activity, eating and sleeping arrangements, child care, women’s status, and values concerning kinship (Thomas 1982:112-3; Slatter 1991:11).

In all societies, land, leadership and family structure were inextricably linked, but the nature of these links varied. The Pacific region was, and still is, characterised by a rich variety of cultures and traditions which fall into three broad categories marked by the three major indigenous cultures of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. All were based on subsistence agriculture and/or hunting and gathering, all relied on stone-age technology, all were non-literate and almost all were patriarchal. In almost all women held lower status than men.

**Major family related issues**

A notable characteristic of Pacific island societies is the resilience of traditional family values and traditional family structures. While there have been considerable adaptations to family formation and living arrangements since colonisation, the family remains a dominant political, social and economic force. However, the trend throughout the region is for families to become more spatially fragmented and less willing and/or able to fulfil traditional family or community obligations.

An increasing number of families now live in urban areas, and urbanisation has led to an increase in nuclear households, to overcrowding and to poverty. Among urban families largely reliant on a cash economy, the trend is for family-based authority systems to break down resulting in an increase in law and order problems, marital problems and pregnancy among unmarried teenage girls.

Population growth has placed considerable strain on both the physical environment and traditional social systems. In addition, more children in formal education, and demands of a cash economy have contributed to an increase in women’s workload and a decline in family support with child care. The loss of access to family land for food gardening or production of food crops for sale has resulted in nutritional problems of both children and adults. The introduction of television and video have also resulted in dramatic changes in household daily activities, the way in which children are socialised, and their knowledge of family history and relationships. An increase in crime, lawlessness and domestic violence against women is of
concern throughout the region, most particularly in Melanesian societies. There is growing concern about violence towards children.

The situation of Pacific families today

Among the more influential changes in Pacific island families today are the widespread geographical location of family members and their ability to maintain close social and economic contact, often across three or four countries. Other changes which have immediate impact on family structure and role are rapid increase in population, environmental degradation and an accompanying decline in resources available to families, deteriorating economies, increased involvement in a cash economy, increased reliance on women's economic production, urbanisation and education. However many aspects of traditional family life have been maintained.

Family and household size and household composition

The most common characteristics of family and household size in the Pacific are an increase in the size of families and a rapid increase in the number of nuclear households. Modern communication infrastructures have enabled more family members than in the past to maintain contact and control over resources. Today it is common for Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Tuvalu, Tokelau and Fijian families to have social and economic networks between five or six villages in the home country as well as in two or more Australian, New Zealand, American and other Pacific island cities. This has indirectly supported the maintenance of traditional family values of sharing and redistribution by providing a wide and diverse economic network.

Household size and composition vary across the region. In some areas household size has declined while in others it has increased markedly, especially in urban areas where increasing poverty forces families to share accommodation or accommodate rural relatives. For example in urban Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papea New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia, it is common for eight or nine family members to live in one small room (Slatter 1991:11).

As in Australia and New Zealand, there is an increase in nuclear households, one parent households (frequently female-headed) one- or two-person households, and households which comprise members who are not kin.

The role of the family in social welfare and economic support

In contrast to the situation in Australia and New Zealand, Pacific island families today continue to provide a security system for their members and an important source of identity. In most parts of the independent Pacific, with the exception of the bigger towns, the very young, the elderly, the incapacitated and the unemployed are cared for within the family.

In Polynesian societies and Fiji, families overseas continue to provide economic support for those at home, and throughout the Pacific those in urban employment support those in rural villages or provide accommodation and support for new family arrivals to town. In rural areas, the family continues to provide mechanisms that help avoid conflict and economic and social disruption. In many societies the family continues to socialise children to respect their elders and to fulfil family, community and church obligations and to subscribe to the dominant values and ethics of society (Slatter 1991:11).

The family provides the major locus of economic accumulation and distribution. This, together with access to family land, has provided a buffer against rapid social change and the transition to a fully cash economy. However, as populations expand and expectations for wage employment and a better life rise, but the means to fulfil them decline, the strain on the family as the source of security is becoming apparent.

The ideal of sharing remains integral to Pacific island culture, but today the reality is that more and more households are attempting to sever wide family links and to avoid paying the often high cost of subscribing to traditional family values. Today, with improved communication, larger families, and more households reliant on wages, the family support system is in crisis. Social problems unknown in the past are emerging and are usually ascribed to the breakdown of traditional family values and structures.

Marriage and divorce patterns

Pacific island marriage and divorce patterns are beginning to follow those of Australia and New Zealand, including later age of marriage, less formal marriage, increased family breakdown and more single parent households. The age of marriage in the Pacific is slowly increasing as customs and obligations which encouraged both early marriage and large families are breaking down.

Formal marriage remains the norm in the Pacific region but in urban areas, where there is less pressure for formal marriage, there is an increasing number of consensual unions. There is widespread concern at the increase in pregnancies among unmarried teenage girls. To some extent this is a reflection of the later age of marriage. For example in Tonga, the mean age of first marriage is now 24 years, with the result that women are potentially sexually active for about ten years before they marry (AFFPA 1985:14).

Divorce rates are difficult to substantiate, particularly as so many unions are never formalised. The figures available show that divorce is increasing and that male desertion is

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the most common cause of divorce. In all countries in the region divorced men are more likely to re-marry than women (South Pacific Commission 1991:39). It is unusual today for Pacific island families to select marriage partners for their children although strict family control is still maintained among some Indo-Fijian and high ranking Tongan families.

Fertility and reproductive behaviour

Throughout the Pacific there remains a preference to have a large number of children and the success of a union is still measured by the number of children.

The total fertility rate throughout the region is beginning to decline with urban fertility generally a little lower than in rural areas. Unlike other developing countries where universal education has been found to be closely linked to declines in fertility (Caldwell 1982), this has not been the case in the Pacific. In Tonga, where education has been free and compulsory since 1891, high fertility continued until the 1960s and in Western Samoa mass education was achieved 70 years before the onset of fertility decline (McMurray and Lucas 1993:6). There is a clear difference between men’s and women’s preferred family size. Men want as many children, preferably sons, as possible while women prefer to have fewer children. Although it is against the law and against traditional values, traditional methods of abortion are still used (AFFPA 1985:16).

Family planning programmes have met with mixed success in the region (AFFPA 1985), but the most successful have been in Cook Islands and Fiji. Although most Fijian women have heard of modern contraceptive methods there remains widespread acceptance of traditional medicine as an alternative. The incidence of modern contraceptive use in Papua New Guinea is low and appears to be falling. In Solomon Islands the government has alternated between pro-natalist policies and those which promote family planning.

Unwanted pregnancies among unmarried women, once accepted in much of the region, are now becoming more problematic for the women involved and their children. Illegitimate children are not as readily accepted as they were, although it is still common for them to be adopted by family members but responsibility is ill-defined and more and more illegitimate children are neglected, suffer health problems and are not enrolled at school as nobody is prepared to pay the costs involved. In all countries, abortion is seen as a solution to potential dishonour and on outer islands in Kiribati some families may resort to infanticide (AFFPA 1985:47-69).

Child care and socialisation

With an increase in the number of women working full-time and fewer family members available to help with child care, the quality of parenting has declined. Throughout the region urban parents today are less willing or able to take responsibility for the behaviour and upbringing of their children. A direct result has been a change in children’s behaviour and attitudes. Teenagers in many Pacific societies face conflict between modern influences which portray personal freedom, an education system which demands individual effort and that they think for themselves, and an upbringing and social values which demand the opposite (MacPherson 1990:114).

In Vanuatu children admitted to Vila Central Hospital with severe malnutrition are commonly reported to be from families where both parents work, or from one parent households. Child care facilities are not well established in the Pacific but there is a growing movement of community-run kindergarten and pre-school centres, which provide care facilities. In most of the region, male children are still favoured over females and tend to be better cared for and less likely to suffer nutritional problems than females. Families without male children will often adopt to continue the family line.

Health status

Families in the Pacific today have better health than in the past following a rapid decline in infectious diseases and improved maternal child health care. However, there has been a dramatic increase in chronic illness brought about by recent changes in lifestyle. Obesity, cardiovascular problems and cancer frequently strike the middle-aged who are usually the major family income earners (Taylor 1990:52). Malnutrition among infants and small children is associated with bottle-feeding and a diet of ‘junk food’ and imported soft drinks. Infectious diseases and malaria remain the major causes of morbidity and mortality in Melanesian countries. Parasite resistance to anti-malarial drugs, mosquito resistance to DDT and a more mobile population than in the past have resulted in a recent rapid spread of malaria.

There are 385 reported cases of HIV positive, and 129 cases of AIDS in Pacific island countries. In Australia there are 16,750 confirmed cases of HIV and 3,147 AIDS cases (South Pacific Epidemiological and Health Information Services 1993). Sexually transmitted diseases are common in most countries in the region and their incidence is increasing.

Domestic violence, crime and suicide

Accurate figures on the rates of crime in the Pacific are not available. In Papua New Guinea, for example, it is accepted that only 10 to 30 per cent of crimes are ever reported to the police and of those only 34 to 60 per cent enter police statistics on crime (Clifford, Morauta and Stuart 1984:i). Throughout the region alcohol plays a major role in all types of offences, and is reported to have led to an increases in marital violence, divorce, extra-marital unions and illegitimate births.
Crime in Papua New Guinea is cause for serious concern. In the period 1980-1988 the total number of reported offences doubled. The most striking feature of the situation in Papua New Guinea is the increase in reported cases of rape, attempted rape, carnal knowledge, and indecent assault on females. However, rape and attempted rape do not seem to be regarded by relevant authorities to be as serious as grievous bodily harm as fewer convictions are made in these cases.

The incidence of domestic violence is increasing throughout the Pacific and is particularly problematic in Melanesian societies. In Papua New Guinea, for example, 73 per cent of adult women murdered between 1979 and 1982 were killed by their husbands, while almost all homicides committed by women during that time were murders of their husbands in retaliation for long-term violent mistreatment. In Melanesia and Micronesia, it is accepted that wife beating is a normal part of married life.

An indication of the growing social problems in the region, in particular stress within the family, is the very high rate of suicide among teenage males in Micronesia and Western Samoa. The situation is thought to result from nuclearisation of households, loss of multiple parenting, increased inter-generational tensions and conflict between the belief in old values and the inability to adhere to them.

**Urbanisation and migration**

Throughout the region there is a continuing movement “away from the small, remote islands ... down mountains to more accessible coastal locations, towards urbanisation and international migration, especially to the cities of America and New Zealand” (Connell 1990:2) - although migration to New Zealand is now more difficult than in the past.

Urbanisation in the Pacific is not of the same scale as in other developing regions and only five towns, excluding those in Australia and New Zealand, have populations of over 50,000 people. It is extensive only in the French and American territories, the Marshall Islands and Nauru, where between 80 and 100 per cent of the population are urban or peri-urban. In the rest of the Pacific approximately 82 per cent of the population still lives in rural or semi-rural communities where a significant proportion of them are at least partially economically dependent on the urban sector (Carew-Reid 1989:v).

Internal labour migration, usually of young men, has been common in most island Pacific countries but an increasing trend is for couples and single women to also migrate in search of employment. External migration has been a feature of Polynesian countries for some years and remittances home have been an important source of family and national income. This migration has been predominantly for economic reasons. However, in hierarchical societies political powerlessness has stimulated migration among members of less politically powerful families.

**Division of labour and the role of women and children**

Throughout the Pacific, women are taking more responsibility for economic production and for feeding the family than in the past. As women’s education improves, more women work in the cash economy and an increasing number in full time wage labour. As younger men migrate to town, a growing number of married and unmarried rural women are left with full responsibility for family food production (Slatter 1991:8). An increasing number of women in the full time workforce also have responsibility for childcare and domestic work.

As in the past, children continue to assist with agricultural and household duties. In the urban areas, there is an emerging group of children who are forced by family poverty to work on the streets or in the markets begging or selling flower garlands, used bottles, cigarettes or betel nut (Slatter 1991:15). The number of children on the streets and not in school is of concern in Western Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

**The family and the environment**

Throughout much of the region land and marine environments are under increasing pressure. This is reducing food and other resources available to families. Widespread deforestation, soil degradation and erosion have reduced the productivity of the land and had a major impact on the fish breeding capacity of lagoons. Lagoons near urban centres are used as drains and rubbish dumps and are no longer capable of flushing away the garbage. This is of concern as 90 per cent of the Pacific island population lives in coastal areas. However, as Carew-Reid (1989:v) has found:

“...South Pacific countries are seeking new approaches to harness development effectively before it causes irreversible damage to social and natural systems ... localised damage is already widespread due to hasty, ill-planned exploitation and processing of limited island resources. Pollution from complex chemicals, sewage, solid wastes ... are creating new problems which force local communities to look beyond traditional responses”.

The growth of urban populations has serious environmental and health implications as the infrastructure of Pacific island towns, established in colonial times, is often run down and not capable of handling increased populations. Urban housing is generally inadequate and lacks water supply, sanitation or garbage collection. In Vanuatu for example 31 per cent of urban dwellings are classified as ‘makeshift’ and in all major Pacific centres growing squatter settlements on the periphery of the town are causing health and environmental problems. These problems already existed in Port Moresby in the 1960s.
Conclusions

Pacific island families, like those everywhere, continually adapt to circumstances and, as elsewhere, exhibit varying degrees of conflict between established values and actual practice. Government’s cannot ‘preserve’ aspects of traditional families anymore than they can stop change, but they can provide policies and legislation that minimise the more negative aspects of change.

The family-based systems of obligation, support, redistribution and reciprocity, still ensure that communalism remains a more important principle than individualism, and in rural communities, mechanisms still operate to deter the accumulation of wealth or power in the hands of one person. To some extent remittances from family working overseas have supported the continuity of traditional value systems and provided a buffer against the more negative aspects of rapid change.

The future scenario for Pacific island families does not seem promising given the continuing trends of high population growth, poor economic performance, declining natural resources, environmental degradation, high levels of unemployment and increasing poverty. It is a matter of considerable concern in the region that the populations of most countries will have doubled by the year 2010. Given economic projections, it seems unlikely that governments will have sufficient resources to maintain current levels of health and education spending, or to introduce even modest family welfare programmes. There is an urgent need throughout much of the region for population policies which support and encourage fewer, healthier children and provide widespread access to free contraception and family planning advice. Government should consider educating men of their role and responsibilities in child spacing. Projects in the region which have provided women with knowledge of their bodies and the reproduction process have met with considerable success in empowering women and improving maternal health.

Many aspects of traditional family life in the Pacific survive alongside aspects of a modern life. Similarly, statute law and customary family law co-exist. However these laws frequently conflict, particularly with regard to women’s rights, domestic violence and in allocating support for deserted wives and children, and ex-nuptial children. A review of the Australian Family Law Act should be undertaken with regard to the situation in the Pacific islands and appropriate changes made to Pacific legislation. Given the extent of alcohol-related crime and the proportion of household income spent on alcohol, consideration should be given to taxing both locally and imported alcohol at a higher rate. It would be cost-effective in the long term for governments to place higher tax on tobacco products. Educational campaigns need to be introduced in all Pacific island countries to increase awareness of the impact of smoking and alcoholism on the family and the community.

The church in the Pacific has considerable power and influence and in many areas is already providing the focus for community organisation and community support that was once the role of the family. Consideration should be given to governments working with church groups to help provide services to the family where they are most needed. Religious organisations in South East Asia have already proved to be an important source of family guidance and support in programmes for children.

Policies regulating housing, town planning and urban growth exist, but few government or local bodies have been able to implement them. Greater consideration will need to be given to urban planning and the development of urban infrastructure if urban family health is to be improved. When planning urban settlements Pacific island governments should make provision for urban garden allotments to allow urban households the opportunity to grow some of their food. Fiji provides a successful example of urban food gardens.

Social change in the region is extremely rapid and it is important that governments be able to respond to these changes. It is apparent from the inconsistent data provided in this paper that data collection in the region is not always satisfactory. More effective monitoring systems are required.

Many countries in the Pacific region are signatories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As the focus for the family of the future, policies that enhance the overall well being of children should be supported.

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### Australian Families

In June 1992, there were 4,586,800 families in Australia. Some of their major characteristics were as follows:

**Marital status**

Marriage levels remain high, despite a 20 per cent decline since 1966. The major change in marriage patterns is marriage at later ages.

- More than 80 per cent of today's young people want to marry and expect their marriages to last.
- 60 per cent of people over the age of 15 are married. Around three quarters of these are first marriages.
- 85 per cent of Australian families are two parent families, just over half of which have dependent children.
- Divorce rates have increased significantly since the mid 60s. Around 35 per cent of marriages in Australia currently end in divorce.

Sole parent families represented nine per cent of all Australian families in 1992, an increase from 7.5 per cent a decade ago. For almost 90 per cent of these families, women were the sole parent. The majority of sole parent families (more than 80 per cent) are formed following separation, divorce and widowhood.

**The work force**

The movement of women into the work force has been one of the most important social changes in recent years in Australia; from 35 per cent of married women in 1970 to 53 per cent in 1992. This movement has been particularly strong since 1984, for mothers with dependent children in both two parent and sole parent families. A significant number of employed mothers work part-time - 60 percent of mothers in two parent families and more than 40 per cent of sole mothers are employed part-time.

In 1991, both partners were employed in 53 per cent of two parent families with dependents, and 39 per cent of those without.

Of those sole parent families with children under 15 years, 47 per cent of sole mothers and 69 per cent of sole fathers were employed.

**Childcare**

In November 1990, over one million families used child care (preschools, day care, occasional care, family and friends). The main reason given for using childcare was 'work related', although families also use childcare for a range of other family related problems.

**Ageing population**

The issue of aged care is becoming increasingly relevant. In 1987 there were 1.7 million people aged 65 and over in Australia (10.7 per cent of the population). In 1991, there were 1.9 million people aged 65 or over (11.3 per cent of the population) and by 2011, the number is expected to be 2.9 million people (13.5 per cent of the population). 37 per cent of people aged 65 and over who currently live in the community need some form of help from others, and this help is usually provided by family members.

Reprinted from International Year of the Family Information Kit 1993, Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services.

December 1993
The following principles underlie the IYF proclamation:

(a) The family constitutes the basic unit of society and therefore warrants special attention. Hence, the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to families so that they may fully assume their responsibilities within the community, pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Families assume diverse forms and functions from one country to another, and within each national society. These express the diversity of individual preferences and societal conditions. Consequently, the International Year of the Family encompasses and addresses the needs of all families;

(c) Activities for IYF will seek to promote the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms accorded to all individuals by the set of internationally agreed instruments formulated under the aegis of the United Nations, whatever the status of each individual within the family, and whatever the form and condition of that family;

(d) Policies will aim at fostering equality between women and men within families and to bring about a fuller sharing of domestic responsibilities and employment opportunities;

(e) Activities for IYF will be undertaken at all levels - local, national, regional and international; however their primary focus will be at the local and national levels;

(f) Programmes should support families in the discharge of their functions, rather than provide substitutes for such functions. They should promote the inherent strengths of families, including their great capacity for self-reliance, and stimulate self-sustaining activities on their behalf. They should give expression to an integrated perspective of families, their members, community and society;

(g) IYF will constitute an event within a continuing process. Measures will be needed to ensure appropriate evaluation of progress made and obstacles encountered both prior to and during IYF, in order to ensure its success and adequate follow-up.

Objectives

The objectives of IYF are to stimulate local, national and international actions as part of a sustained long-term effort to:

(a) Increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector. IYF would serve to highlight the importance of families, increase a better understanding of their functions and problems; promote knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members; and focus attention upon the rights and responsibilities of all family members;

(b) Strengthen national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families;

(c) Stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of families;

(d) Enhance the effectiveness of local, regional and national efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning families by generating new activities and strengthening existing ones;

(e) Improve the collaboration among national and international non-governmental organisations in support of multi-sectoral activities;

(f) Build upon the results of international activities concerning women, children, youth, the aged, the disabled as well as other major events of concern to the family or its individual members.


Highlights of action during the International Year of the Family

A list of conferences, events, books etc. happening around the world during the International Year of the Family is available from:

Australian Development Studies Network
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT, 0200
Australia
Tel 06 249 2246
Fax 06 257 2886

Development Bulletin 29
Women heads of households (Family Aspects of UNIFEM Projects)

The problems women face as heads of the households are becoming more and more prevalent as society evolves and economic conditions and unemployment worsens.

Women become heads of households through a variety of circumstances. More traditional circumstances such as widowhood, divorce at the husband’s demand or abandonment, thrust upon women the responsibility of heading a household. In the past twenty years, however, many women have chosen single motherhood, rejecting for various reasons traditional marriage or stable relations with the father. Whatever the circumstances, increasingly more heads of households are women.

The role of head of household must be considered in conjunction with the economic factors. “Women play a vital role in the national economy. They produce, process, and sell up to 80 per cent of the food products in the developing countries. They manage 70 per cent of all small business. The woman is the sole provider for all the needs of one family in three. By aiding 100,000 women, we help 400,000 children” (Report of UNIFEM 1988).

Many women heads of household in developed countries are employed and thus better able to ensure their children’s education. Such is not the case in developing countries, however, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America where unemployment of men is critical and leaves few or no work opportunities for women.

The possible psychological effect on women who assume the sole responsibility for the household include solitude, pressures and tensions in the home and on the job arising from their status, lack of adult moral support, worry about children and the possible repercussions on their development.

Sonata International projects financed through UNIFEM provide material assistance to women heads of households. For instance their Ghana Project operates a system of weekly loans, which enable deprived women to engage in income-generating professional activities that feed their families. The Chile Project in South America, through ensuring better organization of the Mapuche peasants, improves their living conditions and consequently improves their productivity and revenues.

The various service projects of Sonata International improve the working conditions of women heads of households and increase the amount of revenue they earn. Participation in these projects benefit not only these courageous women but also their families, their neighbours and their communities.


Families in the Year 2000

The World Union of Mothers wants adolescents, young people and parents to be involved in a survey: What family for the year 2000: Are our children prepared to become parents? For copies of the questionnaire in English or French, please contact:

Monique de Vaublanc
World Movement of Mothers
56, rue du Passay
F-75016
Paris
France

IYF and World Environment Day

The 1994 World Environment Day slogan will be linked to IYF. The proposed slogan is ‘One earth, One family’. A United Nations environment calendar on - and for- families including proverbs and ‘green notes’ is under preparation. It is conceived as an outreach tool informing families on how they can, at their level, change consumption patterns and better protect the environment. A special category of the global 500 families (families which recorded collective outstanding accomplishments in the field of environmental protection) will be included in the 1994 nomination forms. The 1994 Clean Up the World Campaign will focus on family participation.

International Year of the Family - Participation of non government organisations

NGO Committee on the Family 1992

This discussion paper deals with NGO activities and plans and includes concrete proposals for possibilities of cooperation between NGOs and different UN bodies in the promotion of the International Year of the Family.

For more information contact:
IYF-NGO Executive Secretariat
An der Hulben 1/15
A-1010 Vienna
Austria

Profile of the NGO Committee on the Family

NGO Committee on the Family 1992

This document provides information on objectives, functioning, members, resources and activities of the Committee.

For more information contact:
IYF-NGO Executive Secretariat
An der Hulben 1/15
A-1910 Vienna
Austria
Meeting adopts recommendations to enhance well-being of families

Representatives of 25 governments adopted by consensus a set of wide-ranging policy recommendations designed to enhance the well-being of families, as the United Nations Asia and Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family (1994) concluded at Beijing on 28 May 1993.

Among other things, the recommendations emphasised the need to give attention to family education programmes addressing the questions of responsibility, relationships, AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases, self-esteem and biological reproduction.

The recommendations further called for special support for single-parent families, as well as for the equal sharing of family responsibilities by men and women. They also included a call for measures to support families in providing home health care for elderly, and to address issues of direct concern to youth, such as training, education, teenage pregnancies, drug abuse, crime and juvenile delinquency.

Not all governments represented at the meeting were in agreement with the recommendations however. Ms Eunice Reddick of the United States said that in her government’s view, the Beijing Declaration and recommendations exceeded the meeting’s mandate. In addition, some recommendations went against established international consensus. For example, the recommendations on family planning made no mention of the basic human right of individuals and couples to freely determine the number and spacing of their children.


Social workers world conference

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-13 July 1994

The theme of this conference is ‘The social work profession: A family united in troubled times’. The programme will emphasise the commonalities of the social work profession across the nations despite evident socio-economic differences. The theme draws upon the concept of the family as the corner-stone of human and social development, to look at the profession itself.

For more information contact:
SWWC '94 Secretariat
191, Dhammapala Mawatha
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
Fax 94 1 562968

Violence in the Family

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 13-15 October, 1994

This conference has been initiated by the Department of Health Care and Family Dynamics at the Free University of Amsterdam and is organised in collaboration with the International Council of Women, The Dutch Association Against Child Abuse, the Department of Women’s Studies at the University of Utrecht and the workgroup ‘Violence in the Family’ at the Free University of Amsterdam.

For more information contact:
Bureau PAOG-Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Fax 31-20-6963228

International conference on family and community care

Hong Kong, 18-21 April 1994

For more information contact:
The Hong Kong Council of Social Services
3/F Duke of Windsor Social Service Building
15 Hennessy Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong
Tel 852-8642929
Fax 852-5284230

Families International Newsletter

This newsletter is published 3-4 times a year. It features NGO activities, information on programmes and services, research programmes concerning families, UN news, information on conferences and special events. The newsletter is distributed globally.

For more information contact:
IYF-NGO Executive Secretariat
An der Hulben 1/15
A-1010 Vienna
Austria

Australian Institute of Family Studies

This organisation is an independent statutory authority which originated in the Australian Family Law Act (1975). It was established by the Commonwealth Government in February 1980. The Institute promotes the identification and understanding of factors affecting marital and family stability in Australia. The objectives of the Institute are essentially practical ones, concerned primarily with learning about real situations through research on Australian families.

For more information contact:
The Australian Institute of Family Studies
300 Queen Street
Melbourne
Vic 3000
Australia
Tel: (03) 606 6688
Fax: (03) 600 0886

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Official acceptance of the desirability of community participation in rural development is being hailed as one of the few positive outcomes of the 'Lost Decade' of the 1980s. But community participation risks becoming more placebo than panacea. Effective community participation in rural projects, as often supported by non-government organisations (NGOs), tend to create 'islands of privilege', isolated micro-projects with little prospect of extension over greater geographic areas and which, with some embarrassment, are now acknowledged to have poor prospects of sustainability in the long run.

In part these problems reflect neglect of the important role of local government in creating opportunities for sustaining locally-managed ventures. Proponents of both participation and of economic rationalism tend to eschew any positive role for local government, the latter seeing government as a fetter on the free play of market forces, whereas NGOs and neo-populists, often quite justifiably, see government as sapping local initiative and blocking participation. This neglect of local governance is evident in persistent difficulties in moving beyond the local project to larger geographic and institutional scales to blend organised local community and governmental ways of operating.

The dichotomy between blueprint and process approaches in rural development is one manifestation of this problem. The blueprint approach consists of a set of prescribed steps, beginning with problem analysis (typically broad scale) and ending with a post-project evaluation. Community participation is greatly constrained in this approach, but it fits well with the organisational procedures of the majority of bureaucratic actors, foreign and local, who cannot take every local peculiarity into account and who must reconcile conflicting claims on resources. The process approach is well adapted to the complex and uncertain nature of local development, but it tends to be restricted in practice to localised, community level activities. Of late, there has been increasing interest in the 'structured flexibility approach' (Brinkerhoff & Ingle 1987), and in operational methods to force the state to 'reach down' and become driven by demands of local organisations desiring to 'reach up' and have a say in the main game where resources are prioritised and allocated.

To have any chance of sustainability, community participation activities must pass two aspects of the 'empowerment test'. Firstly, participatory activities must be sustained by particular institutional arrangements through which local organisations and people can reach into the resource allocation decisions taken at higher institutional and geographic scales. The second test is financial sustainability. The macro-economic policies fashionable throughout the 1980s were allied with support for political decentralisation, of which community participation was one aspect. These policies also presided over a dramatic decline in government revenues available for public services like health and education. Equally significant, but less publicised, was a centralisation of available revenue at the national level away from local levels of government. One result, consistent with the uncompromisingly negative attitudes toward local governance, was for development agencies to adopt service provider roles in place of government, often contracting directly with multilateral agencies anxious to put a 'human face' on their macro-economic policies. A plethora of standards and approaches were promoted by agencies accountable, ultimately, only to foreign donors; existing institutions were often bypassed and demeaned. In the longer run, once foreign financing ceased, the services and facilities were neither institutionally nor financially sustainable since no effort had been made to connect the resource allocation process of the foreign-funded project with on-going governmental processes.

It is clear that few development assistance projects would pass both aspects of the empowerment test, institutional and financial, and the project discussed in this article is no exception. However, it is explicitly concerned to address both aspects of the empowerment test and, given that it is being attempted in a far from favourable environment, the difficulties and prospects it highlights are likely to be relevant elsewhere.

The Small Scale Infrastructure Project has been underway in Quang-Nam Da Nang (QNDN) Province since 1992 as part of a broader programme of assistance by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The province covers an area of 12,000 square kilometers of which around three-quarters is mountainous, and includes a population of 1.8 million which is growing at a relatively high rate of 1.9 per cent each year. Around 70 per cent live in the thirteen rural districts. Agriculture is the main economic base but, due to low yields, QNDN is a food deficit

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province, requiring a net import of food grains of about 8-9 thousand tons per year. The province exports timber, coffee, groundnut, iron and steel products, eucalyptus oil and other agricultural produce.

Programme aims and intentions

The programme has two broad aims. One is to alleviate a shortage of foreign and domestic credit faced by commercial enterprises throughout the province by injecting funds into existing lending institutions. A credit facility has been established to extend finance to province level industrial enterprises. The second aim is to enable local government to create and maintain a range of public and private infrastructure relevant to commune needs through a participatory planning and resource allocation process. The Small Scale Infrastructure Project draws on a Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDEF) which comprises repayments to the credit facility and provincial government finance. The RIDEF is designed to overcome problems associated with the Social and Economic Development Funds (SEDFs) promoted by some multilaterals to mitigate the adverse effects of structural adjustment policies. Control over the RIDEF is decentralised and allocation decisions are based on a participatory planning approach which has some parallel with the Community Information Planning Systems (CIPS) popular amongst NGOs in countries like the Philippines.

As Figure 1 illustrates, the credit facility, managed by the Bank of Foreign Trade of Vietnam, provides enterprises with additions to their existing capital stock in the form of replacements and extensions to enable full productive use of the existing assets. Between US$3-4 million of credit is being made available in individual loan amounts up to US$250,000 at fixed interest rates of six per cent per year repayable in local currency over five to six years. Enterprises being financed include agricultural processing, consumer products, light manufacturing and construction. It is expected that this part of the credit facility will create around 6,000 new jobs, and will increase the total annual gross sales for the enterprises by six times the amount of credit granted.

Financial flows from the enterprises go in two directions. Provincial taxes are expected to reach the equivalent of US$567,000 per year, or 20 per cent of the initial borrowed funds. A proportion of taxation on the increased revenue resulting from the expanded industrial production generated by the loans will be allocated, along with the repaid loan principals, to the RIDEF which will make available about US$800,000 per year.

Capital from the RIDEF is available for social infrastructures which have an impact on the welfare, health and educational standards of life in the commune, such as health centres, schools, water supply improvements, and
for economic infrastructures, which have an impact on the commune economy, through support for improvements to trading facilities and markets, farm to market roads and access tracks, water crossings and water control structures like small dams, drop structures, gravity-flow irrigation and water supply. A third kind of support, focussing on household assets or facilities (such as water and sanitation facilities, energy efficient stoves) and support for improved food security could potentially be developed at a later stage of UNCDF activities.

Like most development agencies, UNCDF has adopted the rhetoric of participation, particularly in the form of 'grassroots participation'. This is conceived as the process through which 'social actors' (particularly the most under-privileged) can influence the decisions that affect them and take greater control over public and private assets and increase their influence over the planning process through which public resources are allocated. UNCDF explicitly differs from the formerly predominant view of participation as essentially an operational tool for project management; it recognises that participation inevitably has a political expression. Therefore, although UNCDF's activities typically focus on infrastructure, economic production and financing, its project aims are frequently couched in the language of democratisation, empowerment and governance. In this regard it appears to be the most 'non-governmental' multilateral organisation.

The CERPAD planning methodology

The main external agency is the Centre for Rural Planning and Development (CERPAD), which is part of the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning within the Vietnamese Ministry of Construction. CERPAD, now under contract to UNCDF, has developed an innovative Rural Investment Planning Methodology, or RIFM, from its earlier experience in provinces such as Vinh Phu in the Hanoi area. There are three main steps in the CERPAD method (Figure 2)

Stage 1: Planning and programming involves a province-wide screening and prioritising of communes for assistance and identifies particular projects for feasibility study and implementation. A provincial database profiles social and economic circumstances; commune priorities are compared with information in the database with particular reference to disadvantaged communes; development potential is considered to take account of existing transport networks and patterns of economic development. Estimates are then made of the resources and, following review by a provincial committee, nominal approval is granted to proceed to the next stage. At each stage, district and commune staff and officials are trained in participatory planning skills, and work with CERPAD staff.

Stage 2: Feasibility, design and appraisal is controlled at the district and commune levels. Using resources from the RIDEF, local authorities can draw on outside specialists to design and appraise proposals. Further consultation occurs in communes (which can result in completely new proposals) and projects are taken through a community appraisal and technical feasibility process. At this point designed, budgeted and appraised projects are reviewed and, if approved for capital expenditure, allocations are made from the RIDEF.
Stage 3: Implementation and monitoring follows preparation of a Project Agreement in which the obligations of commune, district and provincial authorities are defined and arrangements for settling grievances are detailed. The local authority, as owner of the facilities, remains in control of management and financing. They seek tenders, determine selection procedures, retain specialists to assist with appraisal and performance monitoring and issue all payments to be made from the RIDEF.

**Institutionalisation**

CERPAD is attempting to institutionalise this planning and allocation methodology. There are two aspects of institutionalisation:

a) Rules and procedures

The method is intended to induce changes in the procedures used for small scale infrastructures. This encompasses a province scale, yet has to incorporate a fine-grained understanding of local circumstances. Economic liberalisation tends to reduce the resources available for public goods and services, yet, political liberalisation brings with it greater pressure of competing claims from different localities. The CERPAD methodology is designed to increase the transparency of government resource allocations as well as empowering local authorities to manage and sustain public investments.

b) Roles of institutions

The CERPAD method alters the ways that government agencies relate at the local, commune level. Local government, below the provincial level, is restricted in its ability to retain taxation revenue, the bulk of which must be passed to the province. This contrasts with other national policy which promotes decentralisation and greater self-reliance in commune and district government. The normal procedures of the provincial government are to be replaced. Under the CERPAD planning method the 'owner' of the resources, the district or commune, initiates, contracts and recruits both public and private sector agencies according to priorities established by them.

**Issues and constraints on institutionalisation**

Whilst this procedure has been accepted by QNDN provincial authorities and part of their capital budget has been committed to it, there should be no illusions about the difficulties of institutionalising it. A few of the numerous issues likely to arise which have currency beyond Vietnam are as follows:

1) The weight of tradition. It should be no surprise that the 'top down' aspects of this method are more developed than the 'bottom-up' processes through which commune-identified interests and needs are incorporated into decisions. This is partly the legacy of a command political economy, but is also due to the tradition of master, or blueprint planning and the relative novelty of participatory planning. Decentralisation is internationally recognised as one of the most effective ways to promote participation and efficiency (Smith 1985; Friedmann 1992). However it is still typically limited to the authority to interpret centrally mandated decisions at the local level.

ii) Role and capacity of government agencies. Since 1989, the Vietnamese government has legalised private enterprise, liberalised prices, lifted controls on domestic trade, reduced the subsidies and increased the autonomy of public enterprises, and introduced new tax and fiscal regulations amongst local, provincial and national government. The 'structured flexibility approach' requires stability, confidence and financial continuity in the institutions of local governance. Yet uncertainty, a lack of confidence and financial austerity prevail. Equally important in responding to inevitably diverse local initiatives is operational flexibility, but what this means in practice is unclear. Local officials need practical advice to assist them in articulating local needs and interests at higher levels in a way that is administratively and politically manageable. It is small wonder that they favour large-scale, centrally directed projects which offer a few standard 'technical packages' applied repeatedly from village to village.

iii) 'Community management' and local organisation. Any participatory planning which attempts to integrate local, non-governmental expressions of needs with an official process of allocating public resources will depend on the responsiveness and accountability of local institutions. Inevitably, where public resources are involved, government and non-governmental associations will automatically be 'partners'. The interests of existing local organisations do not necessarily coincide with the motivations of agencies like the UNCDF or the commune population. In Vietnam, mass organisations, such as the Women’s Union, the Farmer’s Association, and the co-operatives have an organisational structure which extends below the commune level to the group or unit level. But these government bodies are not equipped with the skills necessary for community dialogue or management, but see their task as mobilising implementation of higher level decisions. These organisations are quite uneven of size and legitimacy. Their membership is often concentrated amongst the higher income groups who tend to overlook the interests of poorer, weaker sections of the commune.

iv) Responsiveness, complexity and workable procedures. The sustainability of participatory planning procedures often rests on two contradictory requirements. Local people will judge the value of supporting the process by its apparent ability to respond to their particular, local needs quickly and in a manner that meets their desires to have an effect on what is going on. This implies a
comprehensive and complex data analysis process which can take local interests into account. And yet complexity is often inversely related to the likelihood that the procedures will be institutionalised. Provincial level political and administrative officials are seldom likely to continue with a method unless the steps are analytically simple and separable into independent tasks, each of which can stand up under competing claims and pressures.

v) Scale and local participation. Participatory resource allocation procedures, as characterised by this project, need to meet three conditions if they are to survive. First, they must respond directly to genuine, locally determined needs which have been accepted as a priority by the local people. Second, they need to actively involve people likely to be adversely as well as positively affected by the activities in a way that highlights the potential risks as well as benefits. And thirdly the procedures need to account for the locally unique and peculiar circumstances which affect the way in which needs are identified, and power and resources are distributed.

Province-wide resource allocation activities are, by comparison, large scale in geographic coverage, but also in terms of the number of individual transactions and the routine procedures used to govern the pace and scale of events. There is a tension between greater scale of operations and decentralised, locally responsive investment decisions which foster direct participation.

For many years development was understood to be the prerogative of the central state. Participation emerged as an operational procedure to implement centrally nominated projects without any form of decentralisation of control over resource allocation or the management and ownership of the facilities created. Local government was the great absentee in such an approach and this fuelled unproductive rhetoric which pitted ‘the community’ against the unresponsive Leviathan. Frequently, centrally-inspired projects languished for want of local commitment and relevance, whilst foreign assistance raised in the name of community development was often squandered on highly localised, privileged and ultimately inconsequential local level projects. The approach being attempted in the Small Scale Infrastructure Project offers no sure resolution of these issues, but the longer term horizon on local empowerment and governance is at least being incorporated into an ostensibly technical, infrastructural project.

Footnote
1. The UNDP Human Development Report (1993, 52ff) is the latest in a line of critics on this point.

References


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Thanks are due to Nguyen Dinh Khoi and Leonardo Romeo. The normal disclaimers apply; the views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily attributable to the UNDP or Centre for Rural Planning and Development.
Urbanisation in Kiribati: Challenging traditional and modern management approaches

Paul Jones, Urban Planner, Kiribati

Background

Initiatives to control the growth and distribution of population have been on and off the development agenda in Kiribati for at least half a century. Even in 1946, the Ten Year Plan of Reconstruction and Development and Welfare for Kiribati (then comprising both the Gilbert and Ellice Islands) proposed, amongst other matters, “to rehabilitate the Colony from the effects of war, to provide new land sufficient to relieve the present overcrowding and contain the natural increase in the population for the next five generations”! However, nearly fifty years on and having gained independence from Britain in 1979, the issues of high population growth, unchecked urbanisation and balanced island development are now among the key issues facing Kiribati’s future survival, especially on South Tarawa where a range of key indicators increasingly suggest that urban growth on the island is unsustainable.

Distance and isolation

Kiribati is geographically unique having a land area of only 823 square kilometres, but having a total country area of just over 13 million square kilometres. There are 33 islands which are divided into three main groups - the westernmost Gilbert Islands, the Central Phoenix Group and the Line Group in the east. The latter includes Kiritimati (Christmas) Island which contains over half the land area of Kiribati. With the exception of Banaba (Ocean) Island to the west, all other islands rarely exceed three metres above sea level. Kiribati therefore, is the focus of much discussion on projected inundation from rising sea levels resulting from global warming, plus the increasing occurrence of high spring tides, storm waves and seismic sea surges.

Population and growth

In 1990, Kiribati’s population was 72,335 and its growth rate was in the order of 2.4 per cent which is generally higher than other growth rates in Central and South Pacific island countries. The Gilbert Islands (Tungaru), include the main atoll of South Tarawa, the capital and main urban centre. The population of South Tarawa is 23,380 persons or approximately one third of the population, while the Gilbert Island group itself, numbering thirteen atolls, comprises 96 per cent of the total Kiribati population (Government of Kiribati, 1993a).

Importantly, the pace of both population and urban growth on South Tarawa has been fuelled by island migration from other atolls. The 1990 Census indicates that only 40 per cent of the population of South Tarawa was born there; only 60 per cent of those resident in South Tarawa in 1985 were still there in 1990; and only 15 per cent of the population of South Tarawa consider it their home island.

Population densities and urbanisation

Land scarcity and unbalanced population growth on the islands are the basis of many problems facing South Tarawa. With 25,380 persons on a land area of only 15.76 square kilometres, population densities are in the order of 1,610 persons per square kilometre.

On Betio, an islet connected to the remainder of South Tarawa by a causeway, there are 9,443 persons on 1.75 square kilometres or 5,396 persons per square kilometre, nearly four times the density of the rest of South Tarawa. Of most concern for the future planning of South Tarawa are estimates that its population will rise to 41,011 persons by the year 2010 and will occupy the same area of land as the 1990 population of 25,380 (Government of Kiribati 1993b).

Against such background, the impact of urbanisation on South Tarawa presents one of the main planning and development challenges for the Government of Kiribati. The lack of clarity and absence of settlement plans, the shift from rural subsistence to a range of urban centres with high population densities, plus the comparatively rapid growth of urbanisation in South Tarawa, have created a range of urban development problems especially:

• land scarcity and land tenure;
• high population growth rates and high densities;
• housing shortages;
• emergence of the ‘urban’ poor;
especially through the centralisation of government expenditure on infrastructure and administration, administrative capital was taken in the colonial administration (McDonald 1982). Tarawa was chosen ahead of Abemama, an island to the south, because there was a military presence after World War Two, there were existing Government offices and the lagoon and port facilities were superior.

Although urbanisation is a relatively new phenomenon in South Tarawa specifically, and Kiribati generally, it must be seen as being primarily stimulated by Government expenditure on infrastructure and administration, especially through the centralisation of government bureaucracy in the urban centres of Betio, Bairiki and Bikenibeu. The decision to make South Tarawa the administrative capital was taken in the 1940’s by the then British colonial administration (McDonald 1982). South Tarawa was chosen ahead of Abemama, an island to the south, because there was a military presence after World War Two, there were existing Government offices and the lagoon and port facilities were superior.

The seeds of growth for South Tarawa were subsequently firmly planted in the 1950s when government activity and modernisation of outer islands was avoided in favour of central government in South Tarawa. Furthermore, South Tarawa was a ‘closed district’ for population movement in the 1950s, except for those who owned land there and who worked in Government, thus further reinforcing the inequities between South Tarawa and outer islands. In addition to this, the population resettlement scheme then proposed for the Line and Phoenix Islands was put on hold. It was not surprising therefore that with the build-up of infrastructure and services such as better schools, medical services and cash employment followed by the lifting of the ‘closed district’ status on South Tarawa in the 1960s, the population of South Tarawa more than doubled, growing from 6,100 in 1953 to 14,800 ten years later.

**Colonial decisions**

Integration - the challenge

There is an increasing realisation that the population of South Tarawa far exceeds the carrying capacity of the atolls’ natural and man-made resource base. A major question is how much additional urbanisation can the environment of South Tarawa withstand before another crisis, such as the cholera outbreak in the late 1970s, occurs. The factors influencing the ability, or otherwise, to integrate traditional and modern management approaches to urban management and planning in South Tarawa and Kiribati, are complex and varied, and include:

- the comparative newness of the urbanisation process in South Tarawa;
- the pace of transition from rural to urban over the last twenty years;
- the assumption that rapid urbanisation is an essential part of economic growth;
- the preoccupation with land and land tenure problems as the key focus of the current planning system;
- weak institutional arrangements such as the severance of environment, physical and settlement planning policy from economic planning policy;
- the traditional I-Kiribati way of life which does not promote ‘planning’ or key components of the planning process, such as exchange of information, between groups.

**What urban future?**

In 1993, the Government of Kiribati increased its allocation of resources to the problems of land and environmental planning, especially the urban management of South Tarawa. The existing legislative framework provides for a range of land planning boards to deal with land planning and related matters. In the context of South Tarawa however, only 25 per cent of the land (containing approximately 70 per cent of the population) has been designated for such purposes. Some of the programmes currently underway with local and central government include:

- Infrastructure Co-ordination and Urban Development Programme;
- Settlement and Economic Development Strategy for South Tarawa;
- urban development options for South Tarawa;
- review of the development control process, including conditions/consultations and referrals;
- review of existing General Land Use Plans/Structure Plans;
- land reclamation feasibility;
- local government workshops on adopting basic

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development standards for land, housing, water, sewage and waste; and

• basic information retrieval.

The magnitude of the problems being faced by local and central government suggests that all of South Tarawa may be designated for land and environmental planning in the short term. Clearly some firm, hard decisions are required if planned, sustainable development is to be achieved, including the retention of traditional food, subsistence production systems and knowledge. As McDonald (1982), commenting on South Tarawa at the beginning of the 1980s, stated:

With the growth of an urban lifestyle for the quarter of the population, the migration being 'circular' more often in the intention than fact, there are islanders who cannot climb coconut palms, cut toddy, cultivate babai or palaka, or make canoes. The skills are not disappearing totally, but the level of their performance is diminishing in an urban environment...

Paul Jones is the first urban/physical development planner for the Government of Kiribati. This article represents the author's views only.

Footnote

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Coastal urbanisation: Tourism development in the Asia Pacific region
Russel Arthur Smith, Russell Arthur Smith and Associates, Singapore

Tourism has played a major role in the modernisation of many countries of the Asia Pacific region. Earlier ambivalent attitudes by some governments in the region have been replaced by vigorous government support for tourism development. The significant benefits to be derived from greater foreign exchange earnings, enhanced government revenues and job creation are now deemed to outweigh the negative impacts.

Unplanned urbanisation
The development of coastal tourism in the Asia Pacific region has mainly been a phenomenon of the second half of the twentieth century. Many beach resorts have their origins in the post-World War II era. These developments have generally been spontaneous and unplanned. Even though some plans have been prepared to guide the development of beach resorts, these plans have usually been finalised after resorts are well established and even then they have been largely ignored. For these resorts, Pattaya (Thailand) is in many ways typical of the post-World War II coastal tourism developments of the South East Asia region.

Essentially the net effect of the tourism development of Pattaya has been urbanisation. In the late 1960s Pattaya was a natural beach with limited tourism facilities. Two decades later, it was an intensely developed city-by-the-sea which was still expanding. Tourism has generated billions of dollars in revenue from international tourists, and has generated many opportunities for residents and people seeking jobs from other parts of the country. In the ten-year period following 1976, the official urban population of Pattaya increased 500 per cent.

The consequences of urbanisation
The spontaneous and unplanned urbanisation of the beach at Pattaya has resulted in uncontrolled sprawl, destruction of natural environments, inadequate infrastructure, polluted seas and a deteriorating tourism product. Despite the clear benefits that have been derived from Pattaya, the resort has come to symbolise all that is wrong with this approach to coastal tourism development. Recent visitor arrival figures show signs of faltering. From 1.42 million in 1987, total visitor arrivals peaked in 1988 at 2.77 million. There was no change in the number of arrivals for 1989 but the number fell to 2.45 million in 1990. While it is too soon to predict that Pattaya has entered a period of terminal decline, many believe that the poor international publicity it has received in past years has had a negative impact on visitor arrivals. But Pattaya is not an isolated case; many South East Asian destinations are undergoing similar processes of urbanisation.

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Social transformations

Many beach resorts commence at generally undeveloped sites where the natural features are important in attracting visitors. Developers exploit these resources and add tourism and other functions to provide services for visitors. In many instances, there are settlements which predate tourism development. At Batu Feringgi (Penang), there were a number of fishing villages adjacent to the beach prior to the advent of tourism. Developers, seeking a site for the erection of a beach-front hotel, arranged for the resettlement of one of these villages away from the beach in the early 1970s. As more hotels were constructed, more villages were relocated inland. All of these resettled communities were combined into one larger village, Kampong Batu Feringgi, which is 250 metres from the beach.

Over time this community became less involved in fishing and other traditional occupations and worked increasingly in the lucrative tourism industry. The community has prospered as is evident from the additions and improvements to houses and the relative high quality of life in the village. This is in sharp contrast to the unpredictable and insufficient incomes that had previously characterized fishing villages of the area.

Kuta is another example where beach resort development has transformed a pre-tourist community. As tourism boomed, a new class of land-rich residents was created. The one-time important rice land was supplanted by the newly valuable land which was suitable for tourism projects. Owners of losmen (small, single-storey rooms with basic facilities) were no longer poor residents of a farming and fishing community. Many people benefitted, receiving substantial business profits, and a stable migrant population enjoyed the prosperity of the resort. On the negative side, tourism development has changed this once quiet rural community into a noisy, congested and dirty urban centre. Tourism development has also brought theft, drugs, prostitution and corruption.

Government response

Governments have tended to respond to this intensification of urbanisation of resort areas in a reactive manner with piecemeal planning approaches which are often inadequate. Clearly, present planning approaches are not effective in directing and controlling the urbanisation of the coast arising from tourism development. Instead, comprehensive planning approaches which include holistic views of tourism development as a component of regional development are needed.


Aid update

The last few months have seen considerable controversy surrounding the funding of the population programme in the Australian aid budget. While originally scheduled to increase significantly over the next few years, some of the funding has been put on hold pending an inquiry into the link between population and development. We reprint below some of the ministerial announcements regarding the funding. See also 'From the press' in this volume for media reporting on the issue.

Increased funding for population

Over 90 per cent of the world's population growth occurs in developing countries. Population growth is eroding gains in living standards achieved by economic growth and causing environmental degradation. Support for population and family planning activities in the aid programme will treble in 1993-94 to almost $30m. The extra funds will be used to develop several large-scale activities in SouthEast Asia, Indochina and the Pacific, focusing on improving the quality and scope of family planning services and safe motherhood programmes. Contributions to international population organisations will double in 1993-94 from $3.5m to $7.1m.

Reprinted from AID 93-94 budget summary, AIDAB, Canberra.

New population policy - Saving life, improving lives

Ministerial press release, 7 September 1993

Cutting infant and maternal mortality in developing countries, giving women greater control over their fertility and reducing unsustainable population growth, are the aims of a four-year, $130 million package of measures announced today by the Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs, Gordon Bilsley.

Announcing the new initiatives on the eve of his departure for an important regional population conference in

December 1993
Vanuatu, Mr Bilney said that lack of adequate family planning services in developing countries was the most pressing of the human rights, development and environment issues of our time - one that Australia was determined to address.

Mr Bilney said, "Over 300,000 women cry out for the means to make their own decisions about the number of children they have. They recognise that their life chances and their health and welfare are prejudiced by early, frequent and prolonged child bearing. The World Bank estimates that the lives of 100,000 women who die in childbirth each year could be saved if we satisfied the existing demand for family planning services".

"I recognise that there is a clear link between the education and opportunities available to women and girls and the number of children they have. That's why our programmes are supported by policies to improve the role of women in development. But it would be negligent to leave it to economic development to bring down birth rates when there is so much unmet demand for family planning services and when development itself is being undermined by unsustainable population growth".

Mr Bilney said that the decision to treble funding for population activities in this year's budget to $30 million was part of a longer term strategy to reach the UN target for developed countries to devote four per cent of their aid to population activities by the year 2000. He committed the Government to spending approximately $130 million on population activities over the next four years.

In implementing the new initiatives, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) would help Pacific island countries - many of which were experiencing among the highest rates of population growth in the world, $2.5 million in additional funding had been set aside for this purpose in the first year.

Projects would also be developed and implemented in SouthEast Asia and Indo-China. These included a $20 million Safe Motherhood and Family Planning Project in Indonesia, and primary health care projects targeted at women in Vietnam. In Papua New Guinea, Australia would provide $15 million over five years to train family planning workers and improve the supply of information and contraceptives, especially in rural areas where rates of infant and maternal mortality were among the highest in the world.

Australia would double its contributions to multilateral agencies to $7.1 million, providing increased support for the United Nations Family Planning Agency and the World Health Organisation Human Reproduction Programme amongst others.

Mr Bilney said that AIDAB's population policy had been updated to put the emphasis on the health and human rights aspects of population programmes. "Our policy makes it clear that individuals should not be coerced into family planning programmes. Equally, the opponents of family planning should not deny women the opportunity to make their own decisions about how many children they have and when they have them".

Expanded population programme to proceed

Ministerial press release, 28 October 1993

Reports that all funding for population activities in the aid programme has been suspended are totally without foundation.

The Government has decided to commission a study into the links between population growth and development. While that study is underway the Government has expressed its willingness to put on hold expenditure not already committed.

What has not been appreciated in press reports and reaction so far, is that the vast majority of funds under the Government's $130 million, four year population programme, have already been committed and will not be affected by this decision.

A total of over $95 million has already been committed covering the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97. All of those projects will proceed as planned. The Government has no intention of moving away from any of those commitments.

Of the $30 million in population activities announced in the August budget, $26.75 million will be totally unaffected by the Government's decision. Only $3.25 million in uncommitted funds will be put on hold pending the results of the study.

The Government expects to have the report on the study early next year which will allow it ample time, if it so decides, to bring its spending for this financial year up to the full $30 million announced in the Budget.

World-leading team for population inquiry

Ministerial press release, 8 December 1993

The Minister for Development Co-operation, Mr Gordon Bilney, recently announced that the inquiry into the links between population growth and development will be led by an Australian, Dennis Ahlburg, Professor at the Centre for Industrial Relations, University of Minnesota. Professor Ahlburg, who has particular academic expertise in the
study of the South Pacific, was formerly head of the Centre for Population Analysis and Policy at the University of Minnesota. He will be assisted by a small number of advisers including Allan Kelly, Professor of Economics, Duke University, North Carolina. It is envisaged that Professor Ahlburg will include a number of prominent female academics amongst his advisory group.

Mr Bilney said that “the inquiry has been given a broad brief to examine the most up to date evidence on the nature and significance of the links between population growth and development. This, combined with the quality of the leading inquirers, will ensure that the study will make an important contribution to the population debate in Australia and internationally, in the lead up to next year’s Cairo Conference on Population and Development. Should the inquiry establish that high rates of population growth are detrimental to the development process, I intend to proceed with the $130 million, four year population programme, on schedule and in full”.

Terms of Reference:

Australia has significantly increased the allocation of funds from the development co-operation programme for population related activities, both in the current year and over the next four years.

Questions have been raised about the nature and significance of the links between population and development and the Government intends to appoint an independent consultative panel to study and report on the issues, specifically including human rights aspects.

The inquiry will review the literature and assess the state of expert knowledge on the relationship between population growth and development.

A draft letter to the appointees of the committee provided more details:

The purpose of this inquiry is to provide additional information on the nature and significance of the links between population growth and development, to allow it to design and implement appropriate and effective aid policies.

Australia has significantly increased the allocation of funds from the development co-operation programme for population related activities, both in the current year and over the next four years. The increased priority given to population matters has raised questions about the relationship between population growth and development and the appropriateness of the Australian Government’s level of expenditure on population activities.

The inquiry has been set up in an endeavour to inform future Government policy in this area. The Government requires information that will allow it to assess the relative costs and benefits of population activities in achieving improvements in development indicators vis-a-vis alternative policies.

The terms of reference for this inquiry have been deliberately been left broad to ensure that they are neutral and non-prescriptive. In commissioning you to review the evidence on the links between population growth and development, the Government intends that you should examine the relationship between:

a) population and social indicators of development (including individual and family well being, health, housing, education and wealth distribution);

b) population and food, resources and environmental issues;

c) population and economic growth;

d) population and human rights issues, including officially sanctioned pressures leading to violations of human rights; and

e) any other relevant matters.

UNFPA scales back for lack of funds

An acute shortage of funds is forcing the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to scale back its programmes at a time of escalating demands for increased services.

UNFPA says project allocations to Third World countries decreased from $212 million in 1991 to $163 million in 1992.

Dr Nafis Sadik, UNFPA executive-director, told the United Nations Development Programmes Governing Council, that total UNFPA income for 1992 was SUS 238.2 million, an increase of only 6.3 per cent over the 1991 income. Contributions for 1993 are estimated to be about $238 million.


Indonesia’s law on population

Indonesia’s new Law on Population authorises government to regulate on population mobility; the number and spacing of children; and ages at which to marry and give birth. A merit system gives or withholding privileges, services and subsidies depending on people’s population performance.

The treadle pump

The treadle pump popularly known as 'farmer's friend' was introduced in Bangladesh in 1979 by the Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service. Since then over 185,000 pumps have been sold, making it one of the most successful irrigation pumps ever made in the country. Its current success can be explained in terms of its appropriate design, low cost, effective marketing, and high cash returns.

The treadle pump - a human powered, twin cylinder pumphead equipped with a bamboo or PVC tubewell - has been designed to meet three important criteria: a) a high and sustainable level of output; b) simplicity of manufacture; and c) low cost. Together, these features explain the outstanding attraction of the treadle pump for small and marginal farmers.

Output of each treadle pump with cylinders of 3.5 inch diameter is about 1.5 - 3 litres/second, which means that an adult operator can pump out about 30-40,000 litres of water a day. The treadle pump is thus much more efficient than any other manual irrigation pump for lifts of up to 3.5 metres. Its efficiency can be maintained up to the suction limit by using larger cylinders. These are made by small private workshops using locally available materials and spare parts which are easy to maintain and repair.


WHO adopts resolution on female genital mutilation

The forty-sixth World Health Assembly on 12 May 1993 adopted a resolution on maternal and child health, and family planning for health that highlights the importance of eliminating harmful traditional practices and other social and behavioural obstacles affecting the health of women, children and adolescents.

The resolution that emerged from the Geneva meeting decrees the persistence of practices 'such as child marriage, dietary limitations during pregnancy and female genital mutilation'. It states that 'such practices restrict the attainment of the goals of health, development rights for all members of society'. Female genital mutilation can lead to death or infertility and a number of other serious complications.


Lifeline Express

A small mobile hospital chugging along India's rails is made up of three donated, 20 year-old, first-class coaches refurbished and adapted from a British Army ambulance train design. In the past year, it has set up camp at four different remote locations along the country's extensive rail network, the second largest in the world. The train stops for 45 days at each location bringing medical experts from the nearest cities to treat people who suffer from polio, eye and ear disorders. Some of India's highest paid surgeons offer their services free of charge, helping to make possible these 'missions of hope'. The Lifeline Express has evoked a great deal of interest from other developing countries.

Reprinted from Te Amokura, 5(3) September 1993.

Nuclear reactors for Indonesia

The Indonesian government plans to build between seven and twelve nuclear reactors, expected to come on line between 2003 and 2015. Proposed locations include Semenan jug Muria and Lasem in Central Java, and Situbondo in East Java. The major rationale for construction of the plants is to meet Java's increasing demand for electricity. The Indonesian government estimates that by the year 2015, 27,000 megawatts will be required, of which only 20,000 will be available from other sources.

The island of Java is located on the 'Ring of Fire', so-called because of its frequent and violent geological activity. It is claimed that the risk of an accident occurring at the site is significantly greater than average. There are approximately 45 000 people living within 16 kilometres of the proposed site.

Reprinted from Asiaview, Volume 3(2) July 1993.

Women, HIV and AIDS

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that between nine and 11 million people have been infected with the HIV virus and this number is expected to triple by the turn of the century. Infection rates are over 10% of the adult population in some communities in Africa, and in sub-Saharan Africa there are roughly as many women infected as men.

Placating a zealot as world birth rate soars

Mike Seccombe

On the desk of the Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans, is a 'world population clock', a constant reminder of the threat of global overpopulation.

These clocks allow one to calculate with frightening precision just how quickly the world is becoming overcrowded. The fact that Evans has it there is an indication of his genuine concern that uncontrolled fertility is the most pressing social, environmental and economic problem facing the planet.

Good for him. The latest United Nations report on the population problem found 240 million women in Asia alone have no form of birth control, although 90 per cent want it. Worldwide, 100,000 women still die in childbirth each year.

All but the most hardline religious zealots would have to share Evans' concern. Unfortunately, just such a religious zealot now is one of the holders of the balance of power in the Senate. His name is Brian Harradine, he is a Tasmanian Independent Senator, father of 13 and one of that fast-diminishing minority of truly papist Catholics who believe it is a sin to use contraception, regardless of the impact on the quality of life of the child, the mother, the family, nation or planet as a whole.

For a long time, Evans and Harradine have had a testy relationship. Every year, Harradine trots along to the Estimates Committee to get stuck into the Government over its contribution to fertility control programmes. He occasionally makes legitimate points. He opposed, for example, the provision of ultrasound machines to China, arguing this would enable the selective abortion of female foetuses. There has been grudging acceptance that he was right.

Harradine usually couches his arguments in terms of objection to fertility control programmes which may be coercive. It makes no difference how often it is demonstrated that Australian aid is directed as carefully as possible at increasing rather than decreasing the freedom of choice of families. That's because his real objection is impossible to answer in rational terms: it is simply a blanket opposition to any form of artificial contraception.

Neither the Government nor the Opposition shares his concerns to any major extent, although the Opposition is somewhat more cautious about the potential for coercion through some UN programmes. This year the money devoted by the Government to fertility control programmes was trebled to two per cent of the total aid budget and it committed itself to reaching the OECD-nominated target of four per cent by the year 2000.

But wait. What's this? Yesterday we learn that the delivery of a significant proportion of this money has been stalled by the Government as part of a deal to get Harradine's vote on Budget measures.

Not that Gareth Evans put it that way. He told the Senate the Government 'offered' to suspend parts of the programme pending an independent inquiry, intended to convince Senator Harradine about the adverse economic impact of rapidly growing populations.

How the blame for this outrage should be apportioned between Evans and Paul Keating himself is yet to be established, but there are a lot of furious people in the Government ranks, particularly women.

It was left yesterday to Evans' junior minister, the rather more straight-talking and honourable Gordon Bilney (who got rolled), to confirm the decision was taken in the context of Budget negotiations.

About $40 million of $130 million in spending over four years has been frozen pending this inquiry, which you can bet right now won't change Harradine's mind. As Russell Rollason, the chief of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid put it, this is equivalent to holding another inquiry into whether smoking causes lung cancer.

How do you measure the suffering which will be caused in the meantime, as a result of Harradine's professed concern for human life?

But at least he holds his views genuinely and firmly, unlike the man who would be the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, Gareth Evans.


Foreign aid hit by global uncertainty

Gerard Noonan

A curious feature of Australia's present recession has been the preparedness of ordinary people to dig deeper for aid projects and development assistance overseas. The voluntary aid agencies report an increase in the amount they have collected during the past year for overseas aid, to $148 million. A year earlier it was $134 million; in 1987 it was $80 million.

While the amount is eclipsed by the total government foreign aid budget of $1.38 billion, it represents a welcome increase in the response from the Australians towards the world's poor. But overall, the Australian aid budget, particularly the government contribution, has been parsimonious over the past seven years. It is forcing Australia into a re-assessment of its aid-giving priorities, in
particular, its handling of the large chunk of aid directed towards Papua New Guinea.

Australia's stinginess reflects niggardly Western world attitudes at present, but it is not the long-term norm. There was a sudden surge of social conscience in the early Hawke years which took the aid budget to 0.5 per cent of the gross national product, a level it has consistently held throughout the 1960s and early 1970s - albeit well short of United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of a country's GNP.

Then, in the ferocious business and social climate of 1986, and with treasurer Paul Keating's determination to provide balanced budgets, Australian charity curled up like a sneering lip. Foreign aid plummeted to 0.38 per cent of output and has drifted below that level ever since. It is now at a miserly 0.36 per cent of GNP. This is far below the performance of the Northern Europeans and the Scandinavian countries although, on a percentage basis, still better than Japan (0.32), Italy (0.25) or the United States (0.20).

Increasingly, the Western aid donors, members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, are steering a higher proportion of aid funds through non-governmental organisations rather than directly administering the assistance on a government-to-government level. In turn, the concept of diligently digging wells or building roads, clinics and schools in remote areas of Third World countries is under scrutiny, with the focus these days being as much on social and political developments as on building infrastructure.

The idea - hardly a new concept, but going under the buzzword of building a civil society - is to help develop institutions or methods within the recipient society for its own people to decide how to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, with the assistance of aid-dollars, of course. The other issue is the way countries count their charity. Increasingly, countries are arguing that the provision of military forces for peacekeeping roles - such as aid distribution in Somalia last summer or supervision of the Cambodian elections - should entitle countries to count at least some of this expenditure in their international 'good deeds' portfolio.

Australia has a particular conundrum of its own in the distribution of its $1.4 billion in 'official' assistance. The Australian total breaks down in round figures thus: $800 million directly to countries, $500 million to joint international efforts, and the remaining to administration and other miscellaneous costs. $260 million of the international amount goes directly to the United Nations as Australia's contribution to running the international agency, with an additional $70 million devoted to refugees and emergencies. Of the direct grants to countries, the lion's share goes to Papua New Guinea - at least $300 million each year - with SouthEast Asian and Pacific countries accounting for another $300 million.

It is the PNG payment which is attracting a great deal of attention these days. Since PNG's independence, the Australian Government had done little more than write twice-yearly cheque to the PNG Government and make some desultory inquiries as to whether the money has been well spent. But, with a coalition of Canberra bureaucrats wanting to ensure that there was maximum bang for the buck, and aid bureaucrats questioning the apparent growth of aid dependency, the laissez-faire approach is being displaced by a much more targeted system of delivering Australian assistance dollars to PNG.

Rather than simply sign the cheque, officials from the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau have been involved in so-called project financing of aid rather than budgetary allocations. This is aid-talk shorthand for greater control of flow of funds to PNG. It increases the leverage of the Australians in the process, but it is raising new concerns in PNG about Australia's tendency towards a neo-colonialist approach. Since independence, Australia has maintained a very hands-off approach to its former charge. This development is a definite turning of the tide. The new approach allows greater direction of the PNG aid funds towards procurement of Australian goods and expertise.

There are mixed views on the real benefits of this aid-as-trade approach. Critics of AIDAB grumble that the Government's aid arm has set up something of a gravy train for ex-AIDAB officials who are providing the expertise at commercial rates for many of these projects. But supporters of the change say the bi-annual budget supplements took pressure off the PNG Government to establish an appropriate taxation regime in its own country to fund development. And, while PNG's record of macro-economic management has been good by Third World standards, its budgetary management has become very sloppy. "They have been in danger of becoming aid junkies," said one prominent analyst.

In a world of scarce public funds and contracting charity, making moves to get off the habit at this stage seems, on balance, wise.

Reprinted from The Canberra Times, 16 August 1993.

**Family planning project launched**

Papua New Guinea launched a K31,000,000 population and family planning project in August 1993. The twin goals of the 5-year programme are:

- reduce population growth to levels consistent with sustainable development
- improve the health of mothers and children
The programme will start in East New Britain, Eastern Highlands, Morobe, Western Highlands, and the national capital. It will be extended to three additional provinces each year. Information campaigns will be used to increase the awareness of villagers and urban parents of the benefits of family planning to space out births or to avoid them, if that is desired.

The programme will provide counselling on various family planning options; assure that a variety of contraceptives are available for those who want them and improve existing health facilities and the delivery of health services to women and children.

On the administrative side, the project will provide additional staffing, operational support for management and supervision, staff training in clinical and communication skills, development of teaching and learning materials, and the purchase of more vehicles for outreach programmes.

The National Population Council is overseeing the programme, which is being run by units in the Health, Finance and Planning, and Religion, Home Affairs and Youth departments.

The programme is being financed by the PNG Government, a grant from the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, and low-interest loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.


**EC beef surpluses**

Each year around ten per cent more beef is produced than is consumed in the EC and there is now an unprecedented stock of 1.2 million tonnes. Because of the high costs of storage, surpluses are sold outside the Community with the help of large subsidies. These surpluses have a profound impact on local economies and agriculture, particularly in west Africa.

Since the mid-1990s large quantities of heavily subsidised European beef have been arriving in the dry lands on the Southern fringes of the Sahara desert. This cheap EC beef (subsidised to the tune of two ECUs per kilo) is up to two-thirds cheaper than locally-produced beef and thus destroys the market for African farmers. Since 1984 the EC has spent more than 400 million ECUs in export subsidies to dispose of beef in west Africa.

These EC policies not only undermine the efforts of millions in the region to survive, they also undermine the aid policies of the EC and its member states, which spend considerable sums on live-stock support and other aid to west Africa. Hundreds of millions of ECUs from the European Development Fund have been spent supporting beef production in west Africa. Almost all west African countries have received such support, ranging from refrigerated abattoirs in Ouagadougou and Bamako and improvements of cattle breeds in Mali, Gambia and Senegal, to fattening units and disease control in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

The amounts of beef involved are large for west Africa but a tiny portion - less than a half of one per cent - of total EC production. The trade could be stopped with little or no impact on EC farmers, with big savings for EC budgets, and with enormous benefits for the people of the Sahel.

In June 1993 the EC reduced export subsidies on beef to west Africa by 15 per cent. This reduction is not however enough to restore the market for west African producers.


**NGOs and the middle class in Thailand**

*Wasant Techawongtham*

For several years, but particularly since May 1992, 'NGO' has become one of the most familiar acronyms, along with Egt, TAT, TOT, ETA, NESDB and so on. Unlike the others however, it is not a monolithic entity, but rather a movement with many member organisations which, though active in widely diverse areas, share an ideal which can generally be described as the desire for social justice by empowering the grass roots.

But the NGO movement has a reputation which endears it to some while causing sneers in others. Admirers call it society's conscience or a counterbalance to the madness of industrialisation which they feel has taken Thailand to the brink of hell. Opponents accuse it of eternally opposing the country's progress, of bucking the trend and the system, or worse. NGOs are subjected to derision and ridicule even by the press, which many consider to be NGOs' natural ally.

In the book *The Middle Class and Thai Democracy*, veteran NGO worker Banthorn Ondam writes that organisations with social concerns started forming after the country's modernisation programme began some 30 years ago.

Conditions after the end of the first five-year national economic and social development plan were ripe for private organisations to step in and fill the void created by modernisation. As the government mechanism failed to keep up with development, NGOs took over to supplement the government's role. Banthorn calls this an important phenomenon in the social movement.

In the beginning, NGOs were large organisations, mainly of foreign origin or Thai academics, bureaucrats or...
members of the wealthy class. They adopted both their philosophy and operational methods from western countries. Their activities centred mainly on social welfare and rural poverty. Only after the student uprisings of October 14, 1973, did organisations concerned with democratic and human rights appear.

Several important phenomena happened in the movement's second decade after the student massacre of October 6, 1976, writes Banthorn. Some 'developmental activists' broke away from the large organisations and set up smaller organisations. This movement grew in number and spread to the entire country, its growth aided in large part by generous grants from large western development agencies. During this time, NGOs started to have contact with each other. They set up forums to exchange ideas, and this later led to the formation of networks of NGOs active in similar lines of work.

As several panelists at a discussion held at the Bangkok Post two weeks ago pointed out, the October 14 uprising created a generation of idealistic young people who were aware of the injustice in Thai society caused by imbalanced development. Many infused the NGOs with their youthful and idealistic energy, particularly after the collapse of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) in the early 1980s. After this, NGOs began to resemble a social movement.

Extracted from The Sunday Post, 17 October 1993, pp.20-21.

Managing gender-sensitive family planning services

Extracts from a conference paper by Shanti Dariam, Director of International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia Pacific.

Principles and values

For family planning services, the guiding principles ought to be governed by a full and total acceptance of the right of every woman to have control over her reproduction. The notion of reproductive autonomy for every woman must seep into the structures of the government, the fabric of health care systems and the thinking of women themselves.

This thinking is important as a guiding principle for the services, because it will provide the yardstick to measure the relevance of all programme concerns and needs assessments. The low socio-economic status of women compels them to early marriage and frequent pregnancies. Their low health status (which is a consequence of discrimination from early childhood) results in poor pregnancy outcome; high infant mortality which contributes to high birth rate; contradictory laws; repressive gender relations. Women's lack of access to a wide range of safe and culturally acceptable contraceptives appropriate to the varying needs of a woman's life cycle should become programmatic concerns in one way or another.

Another value that is implicit is that the individual needs of women as perceived by women themselves, take precedence over group needs or national development needs. And a basic underlying principle that embraces all of this is respect for women and trust in their ability to make reproductive decisions for themselves.

Policy

Values and principles need to be translated into policy goals and the appropriate action facilitated. The policy goals of family planning services are of facilitating the reproductive autonomy of women, and of meeting the needs of individual women for safe and acceptable contraceptive, and salient reproductive health services throughout their life cycle, according to their experiences.

Reproductive autonomy for women, or for that matter, any kind of autonomy, cannot be achieved without commitment to a democratic relationship between service providers and clients, and an adoption of the attitude of mutual trust and dependability. These behavioral goals should also be reflected in policy statements.

Conclusion

Drastic re-thinking of principles, values and concepts pertaining to family planning and fertility control, and the re-organisation of goals, programme focus and institutional processes is essential for the implementation of gender-sensitive, women-centred family planning services. The goal of the services should be to facilitate the reproductive autonomy of women and the enhancement and protection of women's reproductive health. This will only be possible if the programme is based on respect for the clients and trust in their capacity to make sound reproductive decisions.

The responsibility of service providers will be to facilitate women's reproductive decision-making by basing the programme on assumptions and concepts that recognise the dynamics of gender relations, and by locating family planning services within a reproductive health framework. Effective structures and systems for delivery of quality services, the dismantling of rigid bureaucratic structures, the sharing of power, enhanced the worker capacity, both quantitative and qualitative methods for measuring and rewarding quality, and the incorporation of user perspectives and participation are all critical to the success of the programme.

Conference reports

Retrospective on Australian aid

Canberra, 14 September, 1993

The Australian Development Studies Network and the Society for International Development held a Retrospective on Australian aid, subtitled 'Looking back to improve the future'. Seven speakers gave papers all of whom have had important roles in the shaping of Australia's overseas development policy and practice. This was followed by five panel discussants all currently involved in aid issues and general discussion from the floor.

Gordon Bilney, Minister for Development Co-operation in his opening address said that there has been a reorientation of the aid programme towards the Asia Pacific region. The central premise of regional and sectoral concentration was that a relatively small country like Australia needed to focus its aid activities to gain the most development and foreign policy impact from them. He added that to provide quality development assistance the focus was on activities in which Australia had proven capability such as human resource development, food aid, agricultural research and infrastructure projects. He supported the need for converting budget aid into project aid in Papua New Guinea to prevent economic dependence. He also emphasised the need for greater Australian involvement in population activities particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

John Kerin reflected on aid theory and ideology. He felt that aid had to be delivered by way of a multi-faceted co-ordinated approach taking into account the recipient country's development and also a number of national interests. In addition, it is essential to switch from budget to programme aid and institutional capacity-building. He supported the need for converting budget aid into project aid in Papua New Guinea to prevent economic dependence. He also emphasised the need for greater Australian involvement in population activities particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

Derek Tribe provided his personal views on AIDAB's functioning for the past two decades. He said that to date despite problems AIDAB had functioned commendably. The challenge now was to channel Australian aid so as to target the most vulnerable and needy population subgroups at the same time keeping track of the foreign policy priorities and long-term economic development goals. He stressed the need for focus on agricultural development within the overall aid strategy.

Robert Dun gave a detailed overview of his long association with AIDAB on issues ranging from inter-departmental conflicts to intra-departmental problems such as staff unions, relationship with consultants and NGOs. He spoke about the support given by Mr Hayden in the critical years of AIDAB's growth. He emphasised the need for bipartisan support in order to ensure smooth functioning of the aid programme, whenever there is change of power in the country.

James Ingram reflected on his almost half a century's association with aid and development. He too, was of the opinion that the need of the day was to ensure mechanisms whereby the aid was channelled into economic growth in the developing countries, as without growth no amount of redistribution would make a difference to the circumstances of the poor in the poorest of the developing countries. Mr. Ingram was critical of the development worth of most of the global official aid and provision of aid conditional on such Western norms as human rights and democracy. He said that amidst this somewhat dismal scenario where most of the aid is based on perceived political and strategic interests of the donor country, Australia had a comparatively better track record than most bilateral donor agencies. However, he added that Australian aid for disaster relief was quite meagre and needed revision.

A review of the issues in the Australian aid policy a decade after the 'Jackson Report' was presented by Helen Hughes. The speaker said that a number of programmatic directives stemming from the Jackson Report had been adopted. Of these the two most important ones were (i) focusing aid for tertiary education to enable nationals of the developing countries to manage their own development; (ii) streamlining aid from over seventy countries to a geographic narrowing to Australia's neighbours in the South Pacific and East Asian countries. Furthermore, geographic focusing of aid made it possible to undertake aid analysis.

Helen Hughes expressed concern about the growing support of aid for 'grass root' projects both within AIDAB.
programmes and in support of NGOs, despite results of empirical research that show little or no long term positive impact on people's well being through small-scale grass roots assistance to the poor. The speaker said that the handling of Australian aid needs to be more efficient and effective in face of rapid population growth in the next fifty years in the Pacific and East Asian region.

Ken Back spoke about education in the aid programme. He gave a succinct overview of the changes in the policies particularly during the past thirty years relating to international students. He also reflected on the International Development Programme (IDP) and proposed additional support to AEC network. He traced the evolution of IDP through the sixties to date. He said that IDP had shown tangible and lasting benefits for the participating Asian institutions, the most common being the steady increase in qualifications of academic staff.

He said that in the mid '80s, at the start the policy for marketing of education, there was considerable confusion and negative reaction. Within five years however, the number of subsidised students as proportion of the total decreased from 94% to 23% and is expected to approach zero in the next one to two years as students in the pipeline complete their studies. This change has been accompanied by high degree of professionalism within the Australian institutions and their kindred organisations. Ken Back also briefly spoke about the new initiative called University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP). The initiative aims at giving better understanding within the countries of the cultural, economic and social system of the region by enhancing the quality of higher education in the region and increasing mobility of higher education students.

The discussion at the end of Professor Back's presentation focused mainly on the role of NGOs. Patrick Kilby of Community Aid Abroad said that the NGOs and the general public would like to put humanitarian concerns ahead of commercial interests by targeting the aid programmes to the poorest of the poor in South Asia and Africa. He said that the NGOs views on aid were very similar to the views of DAC. Bob Dun responded by saying that the government aid interests are very closely linked to budgetary issues and the government has therefore, adopted aid strategies that balance commercial concerns with humanitarian concerns.

Janet Hunt of International Women's Development Agency said that there is a need for further discussion between NGOs and policy makers in AIDAB and the development field. She said that it is a mis-perception that NGOs are against economic growth aspect of aid, however, the ultimate objective of any aid programme should be to ensure flow of benefits of growth to the poor. The issue therefore, was that of focus of aid programmes. She said that there was a need to look at the how social and economic investments can be enhanced at the micro level.

Helen Hughes seconded Janet's remarks and reiterated the need for Australian aid programmes to focus on educational and economic opportunities for women in East Asia and Pacific. She said that we need to develop an integrated programme for female education in Melanesia rather than have a vertical component of women in development (WID) within the aid package.

The discussion after Derek Tribe's address focussed on the technical aspects of Australian aid and debt servicing. James Ingram said that given the rapid economic growth of China, Indonesia and some other ASEAN countries it would be more appropriate to change the aid pattern from grants to partial loans. He said that the situation with some of the small Pacific states was different as even after continuing efforts to sustain the economy, the chances of economic viability were remote. Thus, there was a need to devise strategies to allow for boosting of the economy through foreign remittances, a situation akin to the Caribbean countries. The issue, however, was complex and required changes in Australian migration policy.

John Kerin raised the issue of AIDAB's strategies to deal with the issues of (i) the international debt crisis which continues to be a major cause of poverty in the developing countries and (ii) support for the democratisation process in these countries; without getting involved in internal affairs of the developing countries.

Report by Rafat Hussain

Ministerial seminar on population and development in the Asia Pacific Region, Canberra, 3-4 November 1993

Under the leadership of the Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Islands Affairs, Gordon Bilney, AIDAB is planning to dramatically increase its programs in the areas of population and family planning. Expenditure in this area has increased in recent years, from $3.6 million in 1988-89 to $10.6 million in 1992-93, but the new initiatives announced in the 1993-94 budget will triple annual expenditure to $29.5 million, the first instalment of an estimated $130 million over the next four years.

Acknowledging that such an initiative should have broad public support and input, AIDAB requested the Australian Academy of Science and the Academy of Social Sciences to organise a Ministerial Seminar on Population and Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, which was held at the Academy in Canberra on 3-4 November 1993. The purpose of this seminar was to provide a forum for politicians, policy makers and natural and social scientists from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and debate issues raised by global population growth and also to provide independent and considered advice into

The seminar attracted a great deal of attention because of the announcement a week before the opening that a portion of the new AIDAB initiative had been put on hold, pending a review of the justifications for family planning programs. The Government had agreed to this review, which came at the request of Senator Harradine (Tasmania), who was a participant in the seminar.

One of the key questions debated in the seminar was the effect of reduced population growth on economic development. Allen Kelley (Duke University, USA) represented the views of most economists that there is little clear evidence of a negative impact of population growth on development, a view which was challenged by Paul Harrison (author of The Third Revolution and one of the keynote speakers), who argued that the evidence in the 1980s shows a strong negative correlation. Kelley argued that population programs are on much firmer ground when promoting the health of women and children and in reducing the overuse of renewable resources such as rainforests and fisheries.

In the session on the environment, the main arguments concerned the energy demands that the future projected populations would have, and the per capita environmental load (the term used by Steve Dovers, ANU) of such populations, which would include resource consumption and waste production. The view that increases in human numbers are always at the expense of the environment was challenged by P.J. Darling (Natural Resources Institute, Kent), who pointed to counter examples from Africa.

Much of the remainder of the seminar was devoted to family planning issues. Insights into the development of successful program in Thailand were given by Mechai Viravaidya, a former minister in the Thai government and founder of the Population and Community Development Association. Mechai listed three reasons for the success of the family planning program in Thailand: community-based family planning services, choice and quality of contraceptives and services, and integration of health and development programs (e.g. nutrition, sanitation, food security, economic security, and environmental conservation). Juan Flavier, the current Secretary for Health in the Philippines, outlined the approach now being followed by the Ramos government, to meet the existing demand for family planning by what is estimated to be half of the 6 million married women of reproductive age. Achieving the target of 24 months average for birth spacing alone would reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in the Philippines by half. Judith Bannister (US Bureau of the Census) discussed the results of her research on the Chinese family planning program, questioning the need for coercive measures in a society which would probably have responded positively to a more orthodox program.

Probably the liveliest session was the penultimate one on health and human rights issues in relation to family planning. Senator Susan West (New South Wales) recalled from her years of experience as a nurse and midwife that the relationship between the health of a woman and her children and her ability to control her fertility was clear and unambiguous. Pramilla Senanayake (International Planned Parenthood Federation) emphasised the importance of family planning in allowing women to control their reproductive activities and therefore to be healthier and more productive in their families' economic and social efforts. Other speakers felt that the focus on family planning missed the main point of development. Rosa Linda Valenzona (Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines) argued that income distribution issues and direct poverty alleviation measures were more important than family planning, and Senator Harradine questioned the need to support family planning when basic health programs in developing countries were neglected.

Malcolm Potts (University of California, Berkeley and formerly head of Family Health International) was asked to summarise the seminar and provide pointers for the future. He pointed out that no one would argue that family planning is a panacea for all development problems, but that it certainly deserves more than previous 0.6 per cent of the AIDAB budget. Family planning involved small adjustments in the overall distribution of aid expenditure, not significant diversions. Abuses of human rights, such as could be cited for China and some other examples, should not lead to cancellation of family planning programs, rather to efforts to end the abuses. He was heartened by the common concerns of all at the seminar for the health of women and their children. He concluded by quoting the phrase that came out of the 1974 UN population conference, 'development is the best contraceptive', and noted that the person who had originated that phrase, Karen Singh, the Commissioner for Health and Family Planning in India, had recently told him 'I have changed my mind. Contraception is the best development'.

Copies of a 48-page summary document from the seminar are available from the Australian Academy of Science, GPO Box 783, Canberra 2601. A 14 page booklet describing AIDAB’s population initiative, A World of Choice, is available from AIDAB Public Affairs, GPO Box 887, Canberra 2601.

Report by Paul Meyer, National Centre for Development Studies

December 1993
Women in Asia conference

University of Melbourne, 1-3 October 1993

This was the fourth Women in Asia conference. There were approximately 170 participants, many of which came from Asian countries. Many of the participants were academics, although there was representation from Asian government and Australian government agencies, NGOs and students. The three days provided a very interesting mix of topics including women and work, health, literature, film and performance art, politics, business and feminism. There were nine sessions, each represented by five different groups with two to three presenters. Just over 100 papers were presented. The high quality of the papers and range of work made for very challenging and enlightening discussion during the sessions.

Ludmilla Qitko, (University of Queensland) presented a paper titled 'Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong'. She explored their position, not only as an ethnic minority in Hong Kong, but as workers lacking any substantive legal power. She discussed the relationship between gender and ethnicity, within the context of an expanding global economy where the internationalisation of capital has contributed to the international mobility of labour.

Pranee Liamputtong Rice (Monash University), presented a paper titled 'When I had my baby here: The experience of South East Asian women in maternity hospitals'. Her paper was based on an on-going study of childbearing and childrearing in South East Asian communities in Australia. She focused her discussion on traditional beliefs and practices related to childbearing and childrearing in Hmong culture. She also described the changes of practices as a result of the immigration process and the women's experiences when giving birth in hospitals and caring for the baby in a different environment such as Australia.

Rosanna Ariffin, University Sains Malaysia, Penang presented a paper titled 'Violence against women and the role of the State in Malaysia'. Dr. Ariffin related how various forms of urbanisation, free market economy, development based on profit motivation, congested housing and flats, the stress and strains that accompany modern living, the competition for economic gain, individualism and consumer culture have all led to increasing violence, including violence against women. There has been an increase over the years in cases of both rape and battered wives. She then discussed how various institutions of the government are handling this increased incidence of violence against women.

Another very valuable aspect of the conference was the networking session which took place on the first evening. Twenty-four different conference participants were introduced who are involved in organisations or activities related to Asian women. The representatives gave a brief outline of their organisation or activity, and participants were encouraged to follow-up with any group that may be useful.

On the second day of the conference, Ms. Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women, met with conference participants to discuss the UN Conference to be held in Beijing 4-15 September 1995. Her presentation was very inspiring, and she called on participants to develop for practical strategies to benefit women as preparation for the conference. She praised participants on their achievements at the conference, but urged them all to put their words into action. A number of excellent suggestions were given, including a request by Hesti Wijaya (Pusat Penelitian Sudi Wanita Unibraw - Indonesia) for Ms. Mongella to present a formal declaration by women against GATT and structural adjustment at the conference due to the strong negative impact these programmes are having on women in Asia.

Development implications of population trends in Asia

Canberra, 29 September to 1 October, 1993

This three day seminar was organised jointly by the Demography Programme and the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University in collaboration with the University of Adelaide and the Population Studies Programme of Flinders University. A total of twenty papers were presented by local and international speakers. A panel discussion on implications for the 1994 Cairo conference on population was also held on the concluding day.

The following is a brief summary of some of the discussion points:

Xizhe Peng of Fudan University, Shanghai, provided a comprehensive update on the recent trends in fertility, mortality and population ageing in China. Dr. Peng pointed out that China still faces the problem of over-population despite the Chinese growth rate in recent years being lower than the world standard. The speaker also briefly touched upon the rising sex ratio in China and its social and demographic implications.

Sri Moeriningsih Adiaytomo spoke about the fertility trends and prospects in Indonesia. Although there has been a somewhat impressive fertility decline in Indonesia mainly as a result of increased contraceptive usage and also rising age at marriage, the decline has not been uniform across all the provinces. This differential in fertility decline is a reflection both of the underlying socio-cultural and religious differences in the different population sub-groups and also differences in program implementation and management.
Graeme Hugo highlighted the major emerging trends and patterns in population mobility in Asia, especially as they relate to economic development and social change in the region. He said that improvements in road networks and access to modern transportation services have increased dramatically in a number of Asian countries. He cited the example of Indonesia, which ranks as a low income country but where the number of vehicles has increased from about 3 per 1000 population to nearly 50 per 1000 population in the period between 1962 and 1990.

The increase in Asian mobility is not only affecting the rural-urban population ratio within these countries but is also having a major impact on international labour migration. An important aspect of this global mobility transition of the last two decades has been the greatly increased involvement of women such as large scale movement of domestic workers to Middle East from Sri Lanka. In addition, females have come to consistently outnumber males among Asian immigrants in the last decade or so. Graeme Hugo stressed the need for more empirical evidence and high quality research by demographers on the relationship between development and population distribution and migration.

Gavin Jones gave an overview of the population planning policies using examples from different Asian countries. He said that a consensus in the policy for population control was seen in the sixties and seventies in most of the ASEAN countries. This was not only a reflection of international donor pressure but more importantly a self realisation about detrimental effects of rapid population growth. He added that the recent diversity in population policies within the ASEAN region was multi-factorial and linked to issues such as out-migration, labour shortages, ageing as well the weakening of the global economic theory regarding population growth impeding economic growth and development. The speaker also reflected on issues such as target setting and coercion using specific country examples and emphasised the need to regionalize population policy.

Institute of Australian Geographers Conference

Monash University, 27-30 September 1993

Approximately 140 participants from Australia and abroad attended this annual conference. Several geographic themes were discussed in separate sessions. Five sessions were devoted to development studies. The first had an environmental theme and papers were presented by Michael Mitchell (University of Sydney) and Jennifer Elliot (University of Zimbabwe).

Michael Mitchell’s paper ‘Rethinking the giant: The Mekong Scheme of SouthEast Asia’ reviewed the history of the scheme and analysed a number of environmental consequences at the local, regional and global scales. His paper outlined some of the social consequences of the Mekong development, focusing on local versus national interests. Although local participation has yet to directly affect development planning in the basin, Mr. Mitchell explained that social and environmental factors have been influential in the scaling down of proposed dam projects.

Jennifer Elliot’s paper ‘Changes in household fuelwood needs and responses on resettlement in Zimbabwe’ explored the environmental implications of the Zimbabwe government’s commitment to purchase a further 5 million hectares for resettlement. To date evaluations of environmental change in resettlement areas have been largely subjective, and no baselines have been set to systematically monitor environmental change. Quantitative and qualitative data was collected through case studies in existing resettlement and communal area environments to assess the environmental impact of resettlement, through the examination of woodland use and management change. Possible future scenarios were also discussed, particularly the potential for conflict over resource use.

In the second session, Lesley Potter delivered a paper ‘Critical, endangered, impoverished, sustainable? Evaluating human environmental impacts in Borneo’, examined aspects of environmental change and human impact in Borneo. She argued that conversion of old growth forest to other vegetation types has been the most important impact. The effects of this change on biodiversity, soils and hydrological regimes, and implications for sustainability were discussed. Human impact was assessed, in a local, regional and national context. Potter discussed the idea that human populations will tolerate a certain level of environmental degradation, particularly if accompanied increased well-being. At what point degradation becomes intolerable, and other possible future scenarios were assessed.

The third session had an urban and restructuring theme. Sallie Yea’s paper ‘Regionalism and culture in Korean development’ challenged the prevailing discourse on Korea’s development success; cultural homogeneity, lack of social differentiation and Confucian cultural traditions. She argued that more important in explaining Korean development has been the inequality in access to political and economic power as a result of regional differentiation in Korea, resulting in sectoral inequalities. Yea argued for closer attention to be paid to the specific character of Korean regionalism where inequalities are evident, and suggested that the efficacy of Korea as a model for Third World development must be questioned on the basis of these sectoral and regional inequalities.

Richard Bedford (University of Waikato), ‘Migration to the periphery: Pacific islanders in New Zealand’s restructured economy’, explored the impact of economic restructuring in New Zealand between 1986 and 1991, on resident or recent immigrant Pacific islanders to Auckland.
Census data was used to analyse employment, revealing a significant negative impact on Pacific islanders resulting from the demise of much of New Zealand’s manufacturing industry, corporatisation and privatisation of State housing, and the abolishment of several welfare entitlements for low income families.

Wade Edmundson (University of New England) in his paper ‘East Java: Two decades, three villages, 46 people’, examined the gap between the rich and poor in a village in East Java. Edmundson presented details of change in income distribution in the village over time, concluding that the theory that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer is over-generalised.

The fourth session comprised two papers. Peter Williamson’s (University of Sydney) paper ‘Tourism and socio-spatial change: Restructuring of an island economy’ examined social aspects of tourist development on an island in Southern Thailand. He discussed the re-organisation of social and economic space on the island, new socio-spatial structures, and how these structures are complementary. The role of local elites in linking the local economy to the wider national economy, and the spatial implications of further development of local power was analysed.

A paper, ‘Differential access to resources amongst the Wosera Abelam of Papua New Guinea’ was presented by George Curry (University of New England). He discussed social and economic changes which have been occurring at a rapid rate during this century, altering principles of egalitarianism which once pervaded the culture in mainland rural Papua New Guinea. As a result of a growing awareness of land limitations, a stratified society is now being created where access to resources is determined by birth, and resource access to immigrant lineages is being restricted. Curry explained that this change is occurring within the context of indigenous resource tenure rules and precapitalist exchange relations, and not as a result of the transformation of indigenous exchange relations along market economy lines.

The fifth session included papers by Stephen McNally (Flinders University), ‘Development studies and the problem with the other’, and John McKay (Monash University) and Geoff Missen (University of Melbourne), ‘The problem of being small in Taiwan and big in Korea: Restructuring firm and institutional networks’. McNally discussed the reasons why development studies has paid little attention to questions raise through an Orientalism critique. The right to study, interpret and construct the ‘other’ has been given to the First World, and due to its position of power, the First World has been given the right to speak for the ‘other’. McNally explained that the relationship between the first world and the ‘other’ must be acknowledged as a problem in the discourse of development.

Partnership for change - environmental practice in the 1990s
Sydney, 22-24 September 1993

This three day national conference was convened by the Environment Institute of Australia. The conference attracted over 170 participants from different public and private agencies and also some academics from various universities in Australia. A summary of some of the keynote addresses is given below:

Mohamed Soerjani from the University of Indonesia spoke about global environmental commitments with particular reference to Indonesia. He emphasized the need for:

- combating poverty and improvement of human settlements
- protection of the forests; development of forestry and agro-forestry plantations
- sustainable agriculture and rural development through low income community co-operatives
- protection of fresh water and marine ecosystems
- a mutually beneficial transfer of technology between developed and the developing countries.

Bryan Jenkins gave an overview of the Australian environmental expertise in the Asia Pacific region. He said that Australian expertise fell into two broad categories of project works and transfer of technology. The first category included involvement in activities such as environmental impact assessment in project planning, environmental management plans for on-going operations and also rehabilitation, particularly in the mining sector. Technology transfer is both through training and institutional capacity building, and transfer of technology for pollution control and reduction of industrial waste. He stressed the need for Australia to work in closer collaboration with its Asian neighbours.

Christine McMurray gave an overview of the demographic setting of the Pacific region. She said that although presently the Pacific island states were not facing major environmental problems, the rapid population increase in most of these states would lead to a serious imbalance between population and resources by early next century unless some corrective measures were adopted by all the states to slow down the population growth.

Marjorie Sullivan presented an historical perspective of environmental changes in the Torres Strait and PNG. She gave details of both the Marine Strategy for Torres Strait (MaSTS) project and the feasibility study of the coastal zone management strategy for the Western and Gulf Provinces of PNG.
The MaSTS attempts to address the issues of external contamination of Torres Strait waters and toxic household and industrial waste generation. The project also devises methods to deal with unplanned and potentially hazardous events including shipwrecks, oil spills or other cargo leakages from transit vessels as well as develop legal and procedural responsibilities for dealing with such events. The Western and Gulf Provinces coastal zone management project aims at maintenance of the quality of the marine and associated terrestrial environment of the PNG territorial component of Torres Strait. The project would concentrate on management strategies in three sample areas, each centred around a locally managed Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The sample areas are Tonda WMA in the west, Maza WMA near the Fly river and Neiru WMA in the east.

Report by Rafat Hussain

A tale of two conferences

Alice Springs, 1991

I had clearly stepped into a different time and space. Before me, a black woman addressing a sea of white faces sitting a little awkwardly with their feet in the dust. She stood before the group with a dot painting on an easel, patiently explaining this painting as an outcome of discussions held in her remote community. The painting identified the major health problem for that community and the solution. That had been the easy part. How would she convert this painting into a project proposal that Canberra could understand and fund?

The faces of the audience were excited, puzzled and embarrassed by turns: a few tentative questions, then ... silence.

The black woman came to speak with her painting. The white audience came with PHDs; learned books; epidemiological methods and clean shoes to share their experience and provide expert advice. But the degrees, books and methods seemed distant now. The advice and experience seemed to belong elsewhere. And now everyone had brown shoes.

Twelve months later, Delhi.

Corralled in twelve stories of white marble, the international AIDS community came face to face with those working in government and with communities in Asia and the Pacific. Briefly. A few of those with the big salaries strayed into discussions about local co-operatives for women in India; community action involving street people in the Philippines and condom usage in Thailand. A political advisor came face to face with a man in sunflower silk robes who was convinced he knew the cure for AIDS; a secretary on her first trip out of Australia ran into the Dalai Lama at 2am in the sixth floor lobby and was visibly transformed. Sightings of other transformations were few!

It was, after all, business as usual. Groups of equivalents came together, standing in concentric, hierarchical circles, facing inward. They talked about the conference in Africa last month; irregularities with their digestion; the food; hotels and airlines they had known. Their conversations were as well-rehearsed as their identities. Shoes stayed clean indoors.

In Alice Springs there had been an opportunity to jettison identity briefly and to simply exist in the present. In Delhi, few took that opportunity, preferring to contemplate the past and the future. The present was glimpsed and snapped from the safety of the taxi, transmitting itself into the past via the wonders of Kodachrome in the safety of the familiar.

Most conferences are set pieces. They could be held anywhere on the globe for all the impact the location makes. So what made Alice Springs different?

What is that magic that stops people talking and makes them listen? What vehicle transports them from the past and the future to the present/ When does the tourist in us put away the camera?

Attitude and location are important contributors. Those who went to Alice Springs expected some discomfort and brought with them an attitude of openness. Those who went to Delhi did so to speak to their equivalents, and perhaps to hear people from other groups. At no time was the group banner - community worker; expert; HIV positive person; woman - put aside.

At Alice Springs people were clear that they did not want to stand behind a banner. Past experience reminded them that banners can be effective sound blocks, in spite of the safety they provide.

Blacks and white who went to Alice Springs took a risk. Both groups were 'out of their skin'. Communication could happen.

That was the magic ... and everyone had brown shoes.

Report by Margaret Conley, Public Health Association

World Conference on Human Rights

Vienna, Austria 25 June 1993

The World Conference on Human Rights concluded with a re-affirmation of the universality of human rights throughout the world. For a while though, it had seemed that this would not be agreed, since a bloc of mainly Asian nations had argued that human rights exist as a function of a country's history, level of development, cultural
However, the conference’s final declaration committed states to promote and protect all human rights ‘regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems’.

The conference declaration also endorsed a US proposal for the creation of a new post of High Commissioner on human rights. However the decision to establish the position was deferred until the next session of the UN General Assembly, which begins in September. There was also a call for more money and status for human rights organisations at the UN.

While the conference had no legislative authority, it did break new ground by extending the definition of human rights to embrace the special rights of children, minorities, indigenous people and women.

The declaration stated that the human rights of women and of the female child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. It said that the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community. The conference established a special rapporteur to investigate violence against women.

Other recommendations included an International Decade for Indigenous People, to begin January 1994, and the drafting of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people by a working group of the United Nations.

Reprinted from The Independent Sector’s Network, 28, July 1993

World food - surplus of shortage?

What does international trade have to do with development assistance? In an address to the National Press Club, the Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Dr Per Pinstrup-Anderson, identified the positive impact to be gained from more liberalised trade policies on food security, hunger, poverty alleviation and problems with the environment, and the important role of international agriculture research in these vital global issues.

Dr Pinstrup-Anderson discussed how the protectionist agricultural policies of countries like the USA, the EC and Japan distort trade, waste resources, put pressure on the environment, raise prices for consumers and lower incomes for producers in developed and developing countries alike. He noted that estimates of the potential economic gains to the developing world from trade liberalisation vary greatly but are very large relative to OECD development assistance.

Of particular note was his statement that “reducing protectionist trade policies through the GATT will be the best aid package that can be given to developing countries” and his conclusion that “while development assistance is critical; for developing countries, no amount of direct government aid can do as much to build sustainable economic growth as can sustained trade opportunities, possible through a freer international market place”.

After indicating the challenges to world agriculture which must feed a rapidly growing population without destroying the natural resource base, Dr Pinstrup-Anderson called for a lot more foresight than the international community has displayed during the last ten years. He noted that for immediate gains for the developing world, much depends on the outcome of current trade negotiation for economic development in developing countries; and for long-term assistance, improvements in sustainable agricultural systems for increased food production are needed.

Report by Cathy Reade, Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research

Disability, culture and families: It's a small world

Sydney, 17-18 June 1993

Oz Child - Children Australia in conjunction with the NSW Office on Disabilities, ran a two day conference in Sydney on disability, culture and families. This was the first forum in which all those concerned about the need for early intervention; academics, teachers, medical practitioners, and therapists, could meet and discuss a range of issues and develop cross disciplinary approaches. The conference focused on the need to adapt family support programmes to different cultures and strategies for sensitive cross-cultural interactions. The conference assisted human service professionals to understand, appreciate and support children and their families more constructively by drawing attention to the issues involved in developing effective cross-cultural competence.

The conference featured Marci Hanson, Professor of Special Education, San Francisco State University, a leading academic and practitioner in the field of early intervention, and Sudha Kaul, the Director of the Spastic Society of Eastern India. A number of leading theorists and practitioners from Australia, including Terry Carney, Barbara Pheloung and Christine Johnston, also took part.

Marci Hanson challenged interventionists to examine their own cultural background and the values and beliefs they hold. Given Australia’s cultural diversity, it was highly likely that interventionists would work with families from cultural, ethnic and linguistic groups that differ from their own. Terry Carney argued that the present position of the children with special needs leaves much to be desired. Special needs children face four main problems: (i) inadequate access to resources; (ii) a lack of sufficient
public advocacy for their position in the face of professional or community insensitivity to the measure of those needs; (iii) too compromised a view of their entitlements to respect for human rights; and (iv) a lack of development of concrete measures to secure greater compliance with human rights 'benchmarks', such as the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child.

A copy of selected papers from the conference can be purchased from the National Children's Bureau of Australia, 19 Business Park Drive, Notting Hill, Vic. 3168 Australia. Tel (03) 558 9100, Fax (03) 558 9243.

Report by Susan Edwards, National Children's Bureau of Australia

Visit by Gertrude Mongella

Representatives of over 40 NGOs met with the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Women, Mrs Gertrude Mongella, on Saturday 2 October in Sydney. The meeting, organised by the Office of the Status of Women and the National Women's Consultative Council, enabled NGO's to come together to discuss preparations for the World Conference: our issues and how we might proceed.

Mrs Mongella asked that we develop strategies for removing the obstacles that impede us from achieving full equality, rather than presenting the UN with shopping lists.

She pointed out that the number of countries that are participating in the conference, and the number of NGOs within those national groupings precludes the issues of individual organisations being heard. She urged us to work collectively, to spread and write for all Australian NGOs and to focus on those critical issues that we can effectively carry forward into the Platform for Action.

Review by CAPOW.

The Asian and Pacific preparatory meeting for the International Year of the Family

Beijing, 24-28 May, 1993

This meeting was convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) in co-operation with the secretariat of the International Year of the Family (IYF). The meeting was attended by senior officials from ESCAP member countries, representatives of the UN agencies and some select international NGOs. In a message to the meeting, the UN Secretary General Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed the role of the as major agents of development, and cited their connection to such issues as sustainable development, gender equality and human rights.

The IYF secretariat drew the attention of the participants to the social, economic and political context in which the family was functioning in contemporary Asia and Pacific. These included the great diversity of family forms in the region, wide variety of levels of economic development prevailing within the region, the rapid urbanisation underway in the region and the growing region-wide movement toward gender equality. The Meeting felt that the state and circumstances of families were reliable indicators of the state of a nation.

The representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said that the IYF had a special importance to UNHCR because of the several million refugees in Asia and the Pacific. In that context, emphasis on family unity and the role of the refugee family as a resourceful partner in the planning and reconstruction of its own future took on special significance. The representative of UNESCO reported that two publications have already been issued in connection with IYF i) Broken Families and the Issue of Child Socialisation; ii) The Changing Family in Asia.

The meeting adopted a number of policy recommendations related to the following:

- inter-sectoral policies on establishment of national cells for development, promotion and evaluation of national policies with regard to the family, development of indicators and collection of data to facilitate increased and systematic family-related research;
- sectoral policies on employment, education, health, family planning, family support services, rural development, shelter and physical environment, and crime prevention; and
- social policies for i) improvement in the status of women at the macro- and micro-level; ii) protection of children from domestic violence, prevention of child abuse and exploitation, child prostitution, and child labour; iii) recognition of the special needs of adolescents; iv) rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; v) provision of home care for the elderly; vi) recognition of the special needs of migrants, including refugees.
Conference calendar

Ethics of development

*Deakin University, Geelong, 14-15 April 1993*

This conference is being jointly organised by the Centre of Applied Social Research, at Deakin University and the Australian Development Studies Network. This is an opportunity for all people involved in development to reassess development practice and policy. The conference will cover a diverse range of issues to do with ethics and development, from global justice to standards of conduct for consultants. Papers are now being called for.

For more information contact:
J Remenyi
Faculty of Arts
Deakin University
Geelong
Vic 3217
Australia
Tel (052) 272516
Fax (052) 272155

Identities, ethnicities, nationalities - Asian and Pacific contexts

*LaTrobe University, Melbourne, 10-12 February 1994*

For some years now an effectual divide has operated between 'area studies' - conceptualised as specific and contextual - and cultural theories such as postcolonialism, postmodernism, poststructuralism, difference, and globalisation. This conference, envisaged as interdisciplinary and regionally based, seeks to examine theories of identities/ethnicities/nationalities in Asian Pacific contexts.

For more information contact:
Professor Joel Kahn
School of Sociology and Anthropology
LaTrobe University
Vic 3083
Australia

Asian Studies Association of Australia - Biennial Conference

*Perth, 13-16 July 1994*

The theme of this conference is 'Environment, State and society in Asia: The legacy of the twentieth century'. There will be a range of panels extending across all disciplines and areas involved in Asian studies. Panels include China, Japan, South Asia, SouthEast Asia, West Asia, law, science, teacher education, language and linguistics, inter-regional and other themes.

For more information contact:
David Goodman
Murdoch University
Perth
WA 6150
Australia
Tel 09 360 6233

International Conference on International Development

*Edith Cowan University, Perth, 13-15 December 1993*

This conference consists of four panels: a) growth environment, ecology and ethics, b) economic liberalisation and structural reform, c) income wealth distribution and quality of life d) historical, social and political aspects of development.

For more information contact:
Dr M Siddique
Edith Cowan University
Bradford St
Mt Lawley
WA 6050
Australia
Tel 09 370 6111

Tourism educators and tourism research conferences

*Gold Coast, Queensland (Tourism educators), 8-9 February 1994*

*Gold Coast, Queensland (Tourism research), 10-11 February 1994*

These two conferences will cover such topics as: curricula and course planning, quality service culture, modelling and forecasting tourism demand, tourism marketing, special interest tourism, and environmental impacts and ecotourism.

For more information contact:
Total Control Conference Management
PO Box 101
Burleigh Heads
Qld 4220
Australia
Tel 075 766 388
Fax 075 764 011

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Vietnam: Development in comparative perspective

California, 26-27 February 1994

This will be the eleventh annual Berkeley conference on SouthEast Asian Studies, scholars, representatives of non government organisations, and business people with direct experience in contemporary Vietnam are invited to participate.

For more information contact:
Eric Crystal
Centre for SouthEast Asian Studies
University of California
Berkeley
California 94720
USA

Society for International Development - 21st World Conference

Mexico City, 6-9 April 1994

The theme of this conference will be people's rights and security: Sustainable development strategies for the 21st century. The Society aims to test out its three years of local and regional debates on environment and economic development, governance and accountability, gender and equity, social justice and democratic practice in four days of reflection of how the international development community is to 'invest in people' while protecting the earth.

For more information contact:
SID International Secretariat
Palazzo Civilita del Lavoro
EUR, 00144, Rome
Italy
Tel 0039-6-5925506
Fax 0039-6-5919836
Email S.I.D.@agora.stm.it

Global Forum '94

Manchester, UK, 25 June - 3 July 1994

The theme of this conference is 'Cities and sustainable development: Strategies for a sustainable future'. The forum will consist of one plenary conference involving about 1500 delegates from cities around the world. They will meet for two days, and sub-groups will meet for a further 3-5 days. A women's pavilion has also been organised with the aim of involving women with an interest in topics such as human settlements and health, population, freshwater, and toxic and hazardous wastes.

For more information contact:
Global Forum'94
PO Box 532, Town Hall
Manchester, M60 2LA
UK
Tel 44 61 234 3741
Fax 44 61 234 3743

Global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing states

April 1994

This conference aims to adopt plans and programmes which support the sustainable development of small island developing states, as well as utilisation of marine and coastal resources. The organisational session of the conference recently concluded its work in New York. The Preparatory Committee met in New York at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 13 August 1993. Relevant non government organisations from developed and developing countries, particularly from small island states, are invited to contribute to the conference.

For more information contact:
United Nations Secretariat
ECOSOC/NGO Unit
Room DC-2 2340
New York NY 10017
USA

International development, children and women: Second United Nations decade

Washington, USA, 17-19 November 1994

This conference is being convened by the Association for the Advancement of Policy Research and Development in the Third World. Research topics will include biotechnology and agriculture, children and women in development, computers and automation, culture and human values, economic planning and policies with women in mind, education for women in development, financing projects for women in development, health and medicine for women in development, human rights and justice of abused, displaced and marginalised women, indigenous women, networks for women in development, social development and welfare for women and children, training women for development, women in diplomacy, policy and public relations, women in the professions and the United Nations decade for women.

For more information contact:
Mokki Mtewa
AAPRD
PO Box 70257
Washington, DC 20024-0257
USA

Women and sustainable development: Canadian perspectives

Vancouver BC, Canada, 27 May-1 June, 1994

This conference seeks to bring together academics and activists working in the area of sustainable development from across Canada to prepare a Canadian position for discussion at the Fourth United Nations Conference on
Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995.

For more information contact:
Ann Dall
'Students' conference'
Sustainable Development Research Institute
B5-2202 Main Mall
University of British Columbia
Vancouver BC
Canada
Tel 604 822 1954
Fax 604 822 1191

Papua New Guinea: Rehearsing the future - governance and sustainable people development

Madang, PNG, April 1994

The aim of this conference is to understand the dynamics of the economy, compose a variety of alternative development scenarios and recommend specific policy changes to the PNG government.

For more information contact:
Australia-Papua New Guinea Colloquium
National Research Institute
PO Box 5854
Boroko
PNG

International seminar on environment and development

Varanasi, India, 1994

For more information contact:
Dr Onkar Singh
Department of Geography
Banaral Hindi University
Varanasi 221 005
India

International Congress of Ecology

Manchester, UK, 20-26 August 1994

The theme of this conference is 'Ecological progress to meet the challenge of environmental change' and it will include sessions on general ecology, applied ecology, geographical regions and ecosystems and ecological affairs.

For more information contact:
The Secretary
VI International Congress of Ecology
The Manchester Conference Centre
UMIST
PO Box 88
Manchester
M6O IGD
UK

Child Health 2000

Vancouver BC, Canada, 2-7 May 1995

This will be the 2nd world congress and exposition on child health.

For more information contact:
Sandra Hildebrand
#113 - 590 Beach Ave
Vancouver
BC V6E 4M2
Canada
Tel 604 682 6096
Fax 604 682 6771

Time-scales and environmental change

UK, April 1994

This conference will bring together academics from a wide range of disciplines to examine the way in which concepts of environmental change are effected by the time-scales along which they are identified. It is hoped that the interdisciplinary nature of the conference will at least increase awareness of debates within different disciplines and encourage participants to think beyond established parameters.

For more information contact:
Max Driver
South North Centre for Environmental Policy
School of Oriental and African Studies
Thomhaugh St
Russell Square
WC1H 0XG
UK

International conference on future groundwater resources at risk

Helsinki, Finland, 13 June 1994

This conference will deal with the specific needs of developing countries: risks for groundwater monitoring, physical and chemical processes, rehabilitation of polluted aquifers, regulatory issues and case studies.

For more information contact:
Ms Tuulikki Soukko
FGR 94
National Board of Waters and the Environment
PO Box 250
Helsinki SF 00101
Finland
Tel 358 0 4028 258

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**Book reviews**

**World without end: Economics, environment and sustainable development**


Sustainable development has come of age with this weighty tome, written by two of the world’s most respected authorities on the nexus between development and the environment. David Pearce is Professor of Economics at University College, London, and a prolific writer on the theory and practice of environmental economics and cost-benefit analysis. Jeremy Warford has been the chief consultant to the Environment Department of the World Bank since it was established in the wake of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development.

The book is divided into three parts; dealing with the concept of sustainable development, the causes of environmental degradation and international environmental issues. The discussion emphasises the need to develop practical policy responses to the problems of achieving ecologically sustainable development in the Third World, based on sound data and analysis. True to this objective, *World Without End* moves easily between theory and practice, illustrating the discussion with a wealth of information drawn from World Bank studies and other sources, much of which has not previously been published or is difficult to obtain.

The authors’ approach is unashamedly that of the economist, as although many other disciplines must be involved in the policy process, they ‘are convinced that solutions which neglect economics are not solutions at all and risk making problems works, not better’.

Part One, on the concept of sustainable development, provides an excellent statement of the mainstream approach to sustainable development, emphasising the maintenance of the natural resource base. In particular, Chapter Two tightens up some of the logic of Pearce’s earlier work in *Blueprint for a Green Economy* (1989, Earthscan), in which he and others suggested that because there are no functional substitutes for some natural assets and their loss would be irreversible, the total stock of natural assets should be maintained, at least until we have better information about system interlinkages and safe minimum standards. *World Without End* refines this position to distinguish ‘critical capital’ as a subset of natural capital (although there may be some human artifacts of artistic or cultural significance which fulfil these criteria). In practice, however, the challenge remains the same: to identify and protect these valuable assets, which are often undervalued by both markets and governments. Chapter Three discusses the potential for conflict between use of discount rates and achieving intergenerational equity, concluding that discount rates should be used for efficiency reasons, but made subject to a ‘sustainability constraint’ requiring total capital stocks to be at least maintained over time.

Chapters Four and Five examine the measurement of sustainable development and the economic valuation of environmental changes. It is here that the authors’ supply-side approach is most clear, with its focus on maintaining the stock of natural and other assets in order to allow society’s income to be maintained in perpetuity. In contrast, a demand-side approach to sustainable development would emphasise not only the maintenance of society’s asset base but also the use of those assets and how they affect social security. (See Bartelmus 1992 *Sustainable economic growth and development: Concepts and strategies*, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Working Paper No. 18*). Such an approach raises an additional set of complex issues, but should not simply be ignored as too difficult. Indeed, many of the criticisms of the welfare oriented approach, such as the need to identify future social preferences, are equally valid for the narrower supply-side approach. The difference is simply that assumptions of the supply-siders are implicit rather than explicit. Talbot Page (*Inter-generational justice as opportunity* in Maclean and Brown (eds) 1982 *Energy and the Future*), for example, argues that the demand-side difficulties may be avoided by preserving opportunities, usually interpreted as a requirement to compensate any resource depletion by improvements in technology or increased human -produced capital. The problem of which opportunities to preserve remains, however. Beckerman (*Economic Growth and the Environment* *World Development* 20(4)) faces a similar dilemma, arguing that we have no grounds to decide which environmental assets future generations would have us preserve, and at the same time suggesting that developing countries should allow the quality of the natural environment to be run down in order to invest in their built environment.

Part Two deals with the causes of resource degradation and appropriate policy responses. It begins, in Chapter Six, with the idea of carrying capacity and the links between population growth and environmental impact. This is complemented by a discussion of the popular notion of a mutually reinforcing ‘poverty-environment nexus’ in...
Chapter Eleven, which suggests that while poverty may contribute to resource degradation, this is largely due to inappropriate public policy and the influence of poverty on rates of population growth. This emphasises the importance of sound policies to raise agricultural productivity (including forests and fisheries) and to enhance the resilience of marginal areas, such as through water conservation, extension, services, and agro-forestry. Policy reform should also encompass the underlying social causes, such as by altering or reinforcing land tenure and resource rights, and improving the poverty 'safety net' more generally, particularly in time of famine.

Chapters Seven to Ten expound the economist's approach to encouraging sustainable development, analysing in turn the problems of policy failure (governments' pricing below social cost), market failure, planning failure, and property rights failure in renewable resources. While the theory is not new, it is well presented and illustrated with a wide range of examples from developing and industrialised countries. The discussion of government pricing of energy and irrigation water and the role of public policy in tropical deforestation in Chapter Seven is particularly good, as is Chapter Eight's discussion of the experience of marketable permits and environmental taxes. Chapter Ten provides an excellent overview of the insights of game theory into renewable resource management, and discusses a number of alternative resource management regimes.

In a similar vein, Part Three examines the economics of international environmental issues. Chapter Twelve, the longest of the three chapters in this part, looks at the connections between international trade and environmental degradation. These links are found to be complex. Contrary to popular wisdom, the Amazonian rain forest is not being sacrificed for North American hamburgers, and banning the export of ivory may lead to decreased elephant numbers. More generally, however, it is suggested that freer trade is likely to increase economic activity and the associated throughput of materials and energy, encourage larger scale and more intensive farming, and increase the occurrence of market failure. On the positive side, it is likely to reduce the extent of environmentally damaging subsidies.

Overall, then, trade liberalisation is likely to produce negative externalities, but also some environmental gains. The negative association between freer trade and environmental degradation does not imply that freer trade should be halted. The best way to correct externalities is to tackle them directly by implementing the 'polluter pays principle', not by restricting the level of trade. While having the polluter pay is itself not feasible (when for example, the exporter is a poor developing country), adopting co-operative policies - such as transferring clean technology or assisting with clean-up policies - will likely be preferable to adopting import restrictions (p.300).

Overall, *World Without End* is a text for the times, providing between two covers a comprehensive guide to sound development policy integrating social and environmental concerns. It is also to be commended for the way that it blends theory with practical examples and an impressive collection of data from across the world. This, along with its well-organised chapters and index, make it a valuable reference work. I know of no other book that fills this role.

As is to be expected from these authors, and a book published by the World Bank, the need for sound economic policy is a recurring theme. The scope of the analysis is occasionally somewhat limited, however. Fortuitously, Herman Daly (also of the World Bank) and Kenneth Townsend have recently republished an excellent collection of more radical essays. *Valuing the Earth: Economics, Ecology, Ethics* (1993 MIT Press, $36.95) brings together twenty classic papers that mark the evolution of steady-state economics. The central theme is that beyond some point, possibly sooner than many think, "economic growth is both physically and economically unsustainable, as well as morally undesirable". I consider these two books, along with Max Neef's *Human Scale Development* (1991, Apex Press), the three most important contemporary works on sustaining the development process. Each offers a valuable perspective which should not be ignored.

Review by: Steve Dodds, National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University

**Gender planning and development: Theory, practice and training**


Bringing together the theory, policy and practice of 'gender and development' (GAD), this book signals a move in both terminology and approaches from 'women in development' (WID), to a consideration of gender as the organising factor of women's and men's relationships and roles within their respective communities.

Caroline Moser is currently working as Senior Urban Social Policy Specialist at the World Bank, Washington, DC where she has been for the past two years. As a respected theorist in gender and development studies, Moser has developed some key reference points for the formulation of WID/GAD theory over the past decade. This book brings together much of her heralded work in this field.

The book is divided into two sections. The first section outlines the conceptual rationale for gender planning in development, and the second section deals with the gender planning process and the implementation of planning practice.

Section one of *Gender planning and development* considers the key elements of WID and GAD theory. To
investigate the gender blindness of current policy, Moser maps out and critiques the historical evolution and application of WID considering its five different policy approaches: welfare, equity, anti-poverty, efficiency and empowerment. In critiquing WID as an approach, Moser favours GAD claiming that focusing on women in isolation from men ignores the real problem women face in development, that of their subordinate status to men. Moser categorises WID as considering women an 'add on' - a separate group which needed to be integrated into mainstream development. GAD calls for a change in the rules of development - for a new type of development which is based on equality and equity between men and women.

Neither women nor men constitute a homogenous grouping. The implications of this for gender analysis and planning are that gender constraints cannot be read off universally devised checklists. Gender planning is a complex area which needs to account for local cultural, social, historical, political, ethnic and class issues.

Moser's distinction between the practical and strategic needs of women is now used internationally. She identifies practical needs as those which women face within their socially defined and constructed roles. These needs are practical in that they deal with immediate issues which women face i.e. access to clean water, food, health care. Practical needs do not challenge constructs of power in a gender sense. The strategic needs of women entail issues which relate to their subordinate status and deal with structural issues of inequality and discrimination. Examples of strategic needs include legal rights, equal wages and control over their own bodies.

One of Moser’s great strengths is her ability to draw together different aspects of WID and GAD and produce usable tools for gender analysis in the form of a matrix or guide. There are several tables in the book which do this task. One such table considers employment policy, human settlement policy, and basic services. Each of these policy areas identify women's triple role (productive, reproductive and community managing) while also considering whether practical and/or strategic gender needs have been met. Strategic needs are further segregated as (a) the changing gender division of labour; (b) control over financial services; (c) overcoming discrimination against women owning land, by law or tradition; and (d) alleviating the burden of domestic labour (p.49).

Moser considers the goal of gender planning as

- the emancipation of women from their subordination, and

- their achievement of equality, equity and empowerment.

To bring this goal to fruition the second part of the book outlines a new methodology for development planning. Operational procedures for implementing gender policies, programmes and projects are addressed, highlighting the need to institutionalise gender planning. The latter part of the book considers training strategies.

Gender planning is perceived as a political and technical process which is transformative in nature. The planning framework is an iterative process utilising various gender planning tools, procedures and planning practice. These tools include identification of gender roles; gender disaggregated data; intersectorally linked planning; WID/GAD policy matrix; and gender participatory planning. The gender planning procedures addressed are: gender diagnosis, objectives and monitoring; gender entry strategy; and gender consultation and participation. The book clearly outlines each aspect of the gender planning process separately under subheadings. Again Moser maps out these principles, tools, procedures and purposes in a table which encompases the triple role of women, practical and strategic gender interests, community politics and gender divisions of labour.

Institutionalising gender planning is addressed in a separate chapter. This deals with the dilemma of whether mainstreaming is more effective than WID/GAD specialisation. In this respect structural location, targeted personnel and priority interactions are analysed. Both these approaches however, have obvious advantages and disadvantages. Moser opts for a combined strategy which is interactive, and uses a case study of SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency. Moser identifies the bureaucratic structure as problematic in institutionalising WID/GAD and calls for increased intra-organisational networking.

In looking at training Moser poses questions which she systematically answers. The questions ask: why train, when to train, who provides training, who undergoes training and how to train. Training is considered in three types - gender analysis training, gender planning training and training in gender dynamics. The appendix outlines a four-module training course and includes exercises, definitions, charts, guidelines and case studies.

The final chapter of the book moves from the concepts and practice of gender analysis to the lives of the Third World women at whom this is aimed. Moser analyses Third World women's movements and the organisations they develop and work within. This chapter addresses the emancipation and empowerment approach to GAD. Women's experiences in developing alternative structures are appraised.

Gender planning and development provides an excellent resource for people who wish to know more about gender and development, for those who seek a rationale for this approach, and for those who simply want more tools and resources to use in their work within this field. The book is highly recommended as reading for academics, practitioners and trainers in the development field, social policy, women's studies, development studies and anthropology.

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The U.S. National Council for Research on Women described this book as ‘a landmark work in the empowerment of women’. It currently stands as one of the finest contributions to a new tradition being forged in development.

Report by Suzette Mitchell, Australian Council For Overseas Aid

Educating all the children: Strategies for primary schooling in the South


At the World Conference on Education for All held in Thailand in March 1990, delegates from 155 governments and a similar number of non-government organisations and agencies pledged that by the year 2000 they would try to achieve universal access to and completion of primary education for all. Colclough and Lewin’s book Educating all the children grew from a paper prepared for that Conference.

The book contains a wealth of data on the availability of primary schooling in less industrialised countries. The principal problem highlighted is the fact that in 1990, nearly 25 per cent of primary school age children, or about 130 million children, were receiving either no schooling at all or very little, that about two-thirds of these children are female.

The strategies which the authors outline for policy reform are based on an extensive analysis of data from 95 countries, as well as six detailed case studies: China, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Senegal and Colombia. The six case studies form only one of seven chapters, but they highlight differences not only in the educational settings, but also the policy response from each country and their relative commitment to quality issues.

Chapter Five is devoted to a simulated model of policy reform in a hypothetical African country. Based on a computerised model (explained in a detailed technical Appendix) to project enrolments and costs over a 15-year period. Chapter Six assesses the costs and financing of reform.

The last chapter provides an illuminating account of international aid to education. The authors believe that changes in the types of aid given, the criteria by which aid is allocated and the purposes for which it is used will each have to change markedly if schooling for all is to become a reality (p. 242). They suggest shifting more aid from the secondary and tertiary sectors to the primary sector, and shifting support to include recurrent financing. They also show that, in economic terms, education has less priority for aid donors now, than in the 1980s.

One of the main thrusts of this important book is to recommend ‘Schooling for all’ (SFA) as a more accurate way of assessing real enrolment numbers than Universal Primary Education. The authors recommend nine major reforms, based on cost-saving, cost-shifting and quality-enhancing policies. Quality enhancement measures include increasing learning resources, increasing teacher salaries, and reducing repetition and drop-out rates through automatic promotion.

This book provides valuable guidelines for policy makers. There are over 50 informative tables throughout the book and 30 pages of additional statistics in an Appendix. The bibliography is extensive - weighted, towards the economics of education. While it is not a book about ideology or pedagogy, it is nevertheless sensitive to issues of educational quality and the role of teachers.

Lastly, it should be noted that the Pacific region is not included in the analysis. Nevertheless, Educating all the children is a highly relevant, extensively researched, and provocative examination of the provision of schooling. Readers will recognize similar issues and problems for the Asia-Pacific region, not only in relation to countries’ educational policies, but in the implications for Australia’s aid policy.

Review by Christine Fox, Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong

Environment and development: A Pacific island perspective


Environment and development is well written, well presented and has an enlightening content. It provides a helpful and realistic examination of environmental problems and policies in the Pacific.

This informative book is the result of co-operation between the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is based on the Pacific island Developing Countries’ contributions to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. This alphabet soup has brought forward a first class cohesive and comprehensive resource for anybody interested in environment and development issues in the Pacific.

Part I summarises the sustainable development prospects of each of the 14 SPREP members from Cook Island to Western Samoa. Most of these countries submitted National Reports to UNCED and are preparing National Environment Management Strategies. The authors have built upon this national work.

The environments of these countries vary from low-lying
atolls to towering mountains and are characterised by a scarcity of land resources and a fragile environment. Close links between socio-economic development aspirations and environmental quality typify these countries.

Typically the country descriptions contain sections on economic trends, demographics, environmental issues, environmental management, and prospects for sustainable development. Many country chapters have a useful matrix listing environmental issues and summarising the constraints and opportunities for achieving environmental sustainability and improved living standards.

Part II defines the region's social and economic conditions and major environmental issues. It brings together into common themes the national experiences of the links between their environments and their development challenges. These challenges are improved quality of life, economic development and population growth. The environmental themes cover issues such as urbanisation, agricultural transition, and coastal degradation. Environmental management processes and prospects for sustainable development are examined. This includes increasing pressures on limited resources of agricultural land, marine life, urban land, freshwater, sanitary landfills, and sewerage assimilation. Common lessons can help these countries learn from each others experience are identified.

Part III makes priority recommendations for future action including social and economic dimensions, conservation and management of resources for development, strengthening the role of major groups, and means of implementation. It covers environmental aspects of human resource development, population policy, research, planning and management institutions.

Part III makes priority recommendations for future action including social and economic dimensions, conservation and management of resources for development, strengthening the role of major groups, and means of implementation. It covers environmental aspects of human resource development, population policy, research, planning and management institutions.

The limited resources of the Pacific Island Countries represent perhaps the sharpest balance between economic activity, quality of life and a fragile environment. We all have something to learn and something to gain from this analysis of sustainable development in these irreplaceable islands.

Review by Greg Barret, University of Canberra

**The geography of urban - rural interactions in developing countries**


In 1985 Alan B. Mountjoy retired from the Department of Geography at the Royal Holloway and Bedford College and this book was produced as a festschrift by colleagues, students and friends, each contributing an essay. It is concerned with different aspects of the interactions which occur between urban and rural areas in a range of developing countries - a theme which reflects Alan Mountjoy's own concerns with the geography of the Third World.

The introductory chapter provides the context, summarising recent theoretical discussions about development approaches. The concluding table provides a useful summary of the different rural - urban relations in terms of linkages, flows and interaction.

The following chapters present a series of case studies from around the world. Each of these essays concentrate on different aspects of these urban - rural relationships, reflecting a concern of Alan Mountjoy's that 'every nation runs its own course':

'Energy in Africa' is concerned with woodfuel issues from household through to strategic resource levels.

'Rural - urban disparities' in the Maghreb looks at the increasing disequilibrium in the development of urban and rural areas, resulting from centre-down development policies.

'Urban crisis in Sudan' focuses on how urban primacy and increasing regional inequalities contribute in various ways to the massive movement of the people in the country.

The chapter concerned with Southern Africa deals with continuing large scale labour migration and the particular rural - urban interaction it enforces.

The analysis of Agrarian change in the Arabian Peninsula considers not only the historical context (i.e. towns dependent on food imports rather than from the country) but the continuing undermining effects upon traditional rural lifestyles of industrialisation based on oil.

The comparative case study of Grain Commercialisation in Tamil Nadu and Hausaland indicates that surplus is not necessarily available for re-investment in rural areas.

The following chapter, a theoretical consideration of urban bias, sits uncomfortably within these country case studies. Possibly this interesting debate should have come before these case studies.

The South Caribbean essay presents an interesting case study of interaction in small island countries, discussing the need for a holistic approach to development that should stress basic needs and social welfare.

In the case of Jamaica, the study also considers the urban periphery issues from a social as well as an economic perspective, discussing the informal sector.

The overlying approach of the case studies is that major urban-centre development is problematic and demands a greater share of a whole range of resources. Rural areas are closely linked to this process, which is often detrimental to their development.

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Apart from the agreement about the dominance of urban centre development, there is no consistent analytical approach throughout the surveys. Some focus attention at the macro-economic level. While others tackle the subject of rural-urban linkages more broadly with a descriptive, socio-economic or dynamic interaction approach.

Those case studies which analyse this process from a macro-economic perspective paint a picture of unremitting one-way and powerless relationships between rural and urban areas. Other essays in the book take a more socio-economic perspective and have also considered how people have responded to imbalanced allocations of resources through the informal sector, and seem to provide a more practical debate about peoples' abilities to develop links, their own capacity to take action and the greater complexity of these informal relationships between rural and urban areas.

This is not to say that each of the chapters does not provoke thought about how rural and urban areas are interlocked within the system. But as a collection of essays, they 'shed light on the processes' rather than provide any presentation or recommendation of what to do.

The book is, therefore, explorative rather than conclusive about urban - rural links. But it does show how little attention has been concentrated on this area of work so far. Perhaps the book should be seen as the forerunner to a more systematic discussion about urban - rural linkages and how strategic planning can take account of the wider implications of development decisions, for both the formal and informal sectors.

Rob Potter's final chapter in the book does put these studies in a more strategic context and discusses the need for an integrated spatial approach to ensure greater equality between urban and rural areas. His concluding statement is concerned with the need for consideration of social and political as well as economic issues. The last sentence - a plea for the geographer's role in spatial analysis - is a fitting epitaph to the book - though not necessarily one that would be shared by sociologists and urban planners.

Review by Susan Jones, Social Development Adviser

**Financing women's enterprise: Barriers and bias**


In 1991 various non government organisations, financial institutions, feminist organisations and donor agencies met at a symposium in Amsterdam to discuss women's access to financial facilities in the Third World. This book is the result of that symposium. The book looks at the experience of women in gaining access to credit and the particular forms of constraints which women face in the process. The book places itself in a cultural and gendered economic sphere.

Financiers, development workers, feminists, academics and activists would all find this book an interesting read for its coverage of issues. The book's format is simple with key summary points at the end of each chapter. Appendices include an outline of the concept of gender and a list of symposium participants and papers. The bibliography illustrates the various fields of literature which are brought together in this book which includes development programming, women in development, micro-enterprise, development, banking and gender studies.

The book begins by situating women within wider economic, political and legal frameworks. Obtaining access to credit is not the major obstacle that poor women face in developing small enterprises. Hilhorst and Oppenoorth discuss literature from the 'women in development' (WID) field which identifies obstacles of bias, discrimination, lack of status, overwork, invisibility and lack of access to economic decision making. For credit programmes to reach the needs of poor women they must identify gender roles within communities especially in relation to the division of labour, control and access over all types of resources and be conscious of the commitment women have to household based production. Gender sensitivity is a key theme throughout the book which emphasises the need for the involvement of local poor women in programme planning due to the fact that women are not an homogeneous group.

**Financing women's enterprise** provides a useful contribution to the current work on Third World enterprises. Micro-enterprise development is currently a buzzword in the Australian non government and government development arena. This area has developed some significant work in developing theory to assist the poor within the informal finance sector, the semi-formal financial institutions and into the formal system. Hilhorst and Oppenoorth contribute a fine insight into gender issues within this field of development activity which is poised to become a lot more popular in the near future.

For many poor Third World women the main source of credit available is through the informal sector. This may involve borrowing from friends and relatives, rotating or non-rotating credit funds and indigenous insurance funds, or through moneylenders and pawnbrokers. The informal sector has many advantages for women due to the quick access of small short-term loans without paperwork. There are also obvious disadvantages in the informal sector which leave women in a vulnerable situation in terms of bargaining power and lack of insurance for repayments.

Semi-formal financial institutions are currently on the
increase with many development agencies targeting income generation projects for women which contain a credit component. Rotating and revolving funds are a popular choice for developing access to credit although there may be problems in sustainability. Credit unions and co-operatives are often favoured due to their democratic structure, however, peoples banks are the shining light in the field. The Grameen Bank provides an example of a peoples' banking structure which is responsive to the specialised and flexible nature of the loans poor women require. The high costs of maintaining transactions in this area are a disadvantage as it often ties these banks to continual external funding. The high rate of return for female borrowers does assure that they will be sustainable, but this is a long term project.

Hilhorst and Oppenooth advocate modifying informal and semi-formal credit facilities to the formal banking institutions. This client-led approach of banks would incorporate increased outreach, confidence building and delivery systems with risk sharing and collateral arrangements as well as guarantee funds for risk insurance. The key problems in this area are high transaction costs of small loans with no practical way of limiting them. Financing Women's Enterprise emphasises this dilemma and points to the need for more and improved work in the formal banking sector.

Financing women's enterprise is a short book which makes a valuable contribution to a field of study where there is currently very little literature. This book represents an important step in bridging the work of development programmes, credit structures and gender studies. The need for more attention to the local needs and constraints which poor women face in their socio-cultural environment is essential to the development of successful initiatives in the field. Hilhorst and Oppenooth link increased access to sustainable, reliable and flexible credit to the improved economic position of women and furthering their decision-making status within communities. This is a very long step and it certainly needs a lot more study, monitoring and sensitive guidance. This book provides a good base for exploring these issues and is recommended for all academics, development planners, financiers and activists concerned with increasing women's roles and rights in the economic spheres.

Review by Suzette Mitchell, Australian Council for Overseas Aid

New books

Women, health and development in the South-East Asian region


This paper analyses trends since 1985, in the health and social status of women in South-East Asian countries, which account for one-quarter of the world's population and more than half of the world's poor. The contribution of women to health care and overall socio-economic development is also critically reviewed, with particular attention given to the consequences of the worldwide economic recession. By comparing the situation in different countries, the book aims to identify priority needs and help policy-makers determine the best ways to improve women's health and strengthen their role in development.

The revolution in Asian fertility: Dimensions, causes and implications


The countries of Asia have completed, or are in the midst of, a remarkable revolution in reproductive behaviour - a dramatic shift away from relatively uncontrolled childbearing, to a situation where most couples control their reproductive behaviour. This book is the first major attempt to chart and explain the Asian fertility transition and assess its implications. It includes a comprehensive analysis of the evidence - including regional and ethnic variation within countries and comparisons of similar cultural groups in different countries - and challenges conventional theories of population change. It demonstrates how the transition has important implications for social, economic, and welfare policies, and how Asian governments have responded so far.

Final report on domestic violence (PNG)

Christine Bradley 1992, PNG Law Reform Commission, Paper No. 14, K5 (K5.50 by mail)

This report discusses the causes of domestic violence and its physical, mental, and social effects on the victim, the offender, their children, and society in general. Included are 54 recommendations, and draft legislation.

This report is available from:
The PNG Law Reform Commission
PO Box 3439
Boroko NCD
PNG

December 1993
Planning the future: Melanesian cities in 2010
John Connell and John P. Lea 1993, ANU, National Centre for Development, Pacific Policy Paper No. 11, A$25.00

This 160 page monograph examines problems of urbanisation in PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji. In almost all Melanesian towns and cities there is still no adequate physical plan - the sheer pace of urban growth now demands action since population growth and migration are contributing to a more urban future for Melanesia. The combination of disputed land ownership, increased claims for compensation from landowners and mismanagement have slowed the process of urban development and rendered it much more complex and expensive than in most other countries. The Melanesian states are too poor and too poorly organised to embark on more than a few token housing schemes, often financed by international aid and sometimes with the consequent destruction of local initiative and responsibility. The public works systems installed in colonial times creak and rust into obsolescence - every provincial centre in PNG relies on water supply systems set up before independence. The monograph examines some appropriate policies and practices.

Population movements in the Third World

This book presents an accessible and comprehensive introduction to a wide range of forms of population movement in the Third World, particularly rural-urban migration. The causes and consequences of migration are examined and the author assesses some of the planning and policy implications of current characteristics of migration in the Third World.

For more information contact:
Routledge
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE
UK
Fax 0944 71 583 0701

A world perspective on Pacific islander migration: Australia, New Zealand and the USA
Grant McCall and John Connell (eds), Centre for South Pacific Island Studies, Pacific Studies Monograph Series Number 6, 366pp., ISBN 0-7334-0285, $A20.00

This monograph is a compilation of thirty-two papers by thirty-four authors and covers economic, social and cultural aspects of Pacific island migration to Australia, New Zealand and the USA. There is a special section on internal migration in Micronesia, and overviews on how church affiliation can affect the movement of people, and the links between development policy and why people leave their homes. These reports of original research provide for the first time a comprehensive picture of migration of the peoples of Oceania.

Non-governmental organisation series
Co-ordinated by the Overseas Development Institute

This series comprises three regional studies and an overview volume. Each of the titles presents detailed empirical insights into the work of non-governmental organisations in agriculture. The case material is set within the context of NGOs; relations with the state and their contribution to democratisation and the consolidation of rural civil society. Against the background of a broad review of institutional activity at the grassroots, each book explores specific questions concerning the work of NGOs in agricultural development:

- How good/bad are NGOs at promoting technological innovation and addressing constraints to change in peasant agriculture?
- How effective are NGOs at strengthening grassroots/local organisations?
- How do/will donor pressures influence NGOs and their links to the State?

The titles include:

Non-governmental organisations and the State in Asia
John Farrington and David J Lewis (eds), 1993, Routledge, 400pp., £45

Non-governmental organisations and the State in Africa
Kate Wellard and James G Copestake, 1993, Routledge, 352 pp., £45.

Reluctant partners? Non-governmental organisations, the State and sustainable agricultural development

Non-governmental organisations and the State in Latin America

For more information contact:
Louise Machin
Promotion Department
Routledge
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE
UK
Tel 071 583 9855
New directions for development

After more than forty years and the expenditure of hundreds of billions of dollars by the developed nations of the world in foreign assistance, the gap between rich and poor nations has increased and the poorest of the poor are worse off now than some 40 years ago. Why? What went wrong? What caused so many ambitious foreign assistance programmes to produce such dismal results? This book provides convincing answers to these important questions and prescribes more effective ways to direct foreign assistance efforts in the future.

Fieldwork in developing countries

This book addresses theoretical concerns while reflecting on the importance of fieldwork in the research process. Part 1 offers an introduction to the many features common to all fieldwork situations. The authors discuss preparing for, participating in, and returning from fieldwork, then narrow the focus to particular methodological matters. In Part 2, eleven case studies, drawn from the authors' personal experiences, cover issues relating both to the conduct of research and to questions of lifestyle and interactions with the local community. Alternatives are presented rather than prescriptions, hoping to excite critical thought on fieldwork method, as well as to suggest possible solutions to common problems.

Microcredit for microenterprise: A bibliography

This bibliography is concerned with the provision of microcredit, the importance of which, as a prerequisite for microenterprise development in Third World countries, is now increasingly recognised. The bibliography is a by-product of the Foundation for Development Co-operation's 'Banking with the Poor' project. It is not presented as a definitive bibliography; the intention is to share these materials with other workers in the field in the hope of focusing more attention on an important approach to poverty alleviation.

Social development in Papua New Guinea 1972-1990
Maev O'Collins 1993, Australian National University, 284pp., A$25.00

This book records the debates on policy and planning issues which have taken place since the process of self government began in the early 1970s. These included development of appropriate community-based health, education and social welfare programmes and services; training of social development personnel; and the role of women and youth in a changing society.

Development administration in Papua New Guinea 1991
O.P. Dwivedi and P. Piti (eds), K15

This book is comprised of eleven essays in which examine public administration, training, planning, policy making, and women and development.

Pacific islands at the crossroads
Rodney Cole (ed) 1993, National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University, 360pp., A$25.00

These are the edited papers from a November 1992 conference at Griffith University, and bring together scholars of Asian economic development, and those of the Pacific, to review similarities and differences of approach. It is the differences that are highlighted here (just as the conference demonstrated the continued manner in which either Asia fails to perceive the Pacific at all or regards it as a number of identical economic basket-cases). There are a number of very useful chapters on the perceived relevance of East Asian experience, trade and aid in the Pacific, human resource management and socio-cultural aspects of development.

The development process in small island states

This volume comprises papers presented at the Commonwealth Geographical Conference in Malta in 1990 along with some extra material. They cover such issues as political and security issues, gender and environmental perception in the Caribbean, tourism and resort cycles, basic needs in the Caribbean, fertility in Mauritius, settlement schemes in Jamaica and Israel, industrialisation in Fiji and colonialism and the environment.
Resources, development and politics in the Pacific Islands


The Bougainville tragedy highlights the political dimensions of large-scale natural resource exploitation. Yet there has been insufficient study of the political contexts and implications of resource development projects and resource exploitation, whether in the Pacific Islands region or, with reference to indigenous communities, in Australia and New Zealand. The contributions to this volume help rectify the neglect of the political dimension. The subjects they examine include the environment, fisheries, forestry, indigenous rights and resource issues, and mining and oil exploration. The case studies presented are complemented by discussion of broad conceptual and theoretical issues. Papua New Guinea - including Bougainville, in North Solomons Province - receives strong emphasis, but issues and conflicts in Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and elsewhere are considered.

Voluntary service and development in the Cook Islands


Most Cook Islanders belong to several voluntary organisations and most benefit indirectly from many more. This book provides an overview of the 200 plus organisations and their contributions to national and community development.

Papua and New Guinea and Australia: Towards 2000

Community Aid Abroad 1993, 104pp., A$15.50

This publication is a collection of twelve papers given at a recent CAA conference by academics, government representatives and representatives from PNG non-government organisations.

Development in Papua New Guinea: Alternative perspectives

Community Aid Abroad 1993, 40pp., A$12.50

This publication is a shortened version of "Papua New Guinea and Australia: Towards 2000" but with illustrations and extra background information.

Both of these papers (with an A$2.00 postage and handling fee) are available from:

Community Aid Abroad/Freedom From Hunger
156 George Street
Fitzroy
Victoria 3066
Australia
Tel: (03) 289 9444

Implementation of the global strategy for health for all by the year 2000: Second evaluation - Volume I: Global review


This volume, part of a seven volume work, provides a global overview of the changes in the world health situation as determined through an analysis of data submitted by 151 countries for 1985-1990. Focused on a number of well-defined indicators of health status and its socio-economic and environmental determinants, the report aims to discern trends, measure progress, define problems, and thus guide countries in their continuing efforts to strengthen health systems and provide accessibility and quality of care. Emphasis is placed on factors linked to progress in the achievement of coverage by primary health care, equity in health, and sustainability in the national approaches employed.

Volumes two through seven review health conditions regionally and are currently in preparation.

The progress of nations


In this report, UNICEF attempts to change the way nations see themselves on the international stage. The countries of the world are ranked in a series of tables showing progress made in such areas as health care, nutrition, education, advances for women and family planning. "It is time" says the report, "that the standing and prestige of nations was assessed not by their military and economic strength but by the well-being of their peoples".

For more information on this report contact:

Gaye Phillips
UNICEF-Australia National Committee
PO Box K485
Haymarket
NSW 2000

ILO - Child labour collection

International Labour Organisation 1993, Hunter Publications

Child labour in Sri Lanka: Learning from the past

Children and hazardous work in the Philippines

Child labour: A guide to project design

For more information on these publications contact:

Hunter Publications
58a Gipps Street
Collingwood
Victoria 3066
Australia
**New motherhood: Cultural and personal transitions in the 1980s**

Mira Crouch and Lenore Manderson 1993, Gordon and Breach, Australia, 222 pp., US$45.00

This Australian study of pregnancy, birth and early motherhood in the 1980s explores women's perceptions of childbearing in the context of an examination of social changes and ideological shifts over the past few decades.

For more information contact:
DA Books
PO Box 1673
Mitcham
Vic 3132
Australia

**Filipino women overseas contract workers: At what cost?**


This book is a compilation of essays on the diversity of experiences, perspectives and approaches in the study of Filipinas in migration. It aims to reverse society's attitude about women overseas contract workers (OWCs), provide direction to the country's marketing approach and bargaining position as a resource provider, and encourage the role of OWCs as active advocates of their own cause and interest. The book is divided into four sections which examine: the issues and problems of domestic workers; entertainers and nurses; support and protection mechanisms of female OWCs; and analysis of two Senate Committe Reports of abuse of Filipina OWCs.

**Directory of funders in maternal health and safe motherhood**

WHO 1993

This publication is intended to help individuals and groups find funds to support their activities in maternal health and safe motherhood, particularly in the developing world. The Directory is available from:

Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood Programme
Division of Family Health
World Health Organisation
1211 Geneva 17
Switzerland

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**Newsletters and journals**

**Newsletter of the International Centre for Economic Growth**

This newsletter contains articles, conference reports and book reports pertaining to international economic growth. It also includes a list of institutes affiliated with the Centre. The Center promotes dialogue among international scholars and policy makers on issues of economic policy and growth and human development. It works with a network of correspondent institutes in over 100 countries, seeking to strengthen their capacity to provide leadership in policy debates over methods for achieving sustained economic and social progress.

For more information contact:
ICEG
720 Market Street
San Francisco
CA 94102
USA
Tel 415 981 5353
Fax 415 986 4878

**Indigenous knowledge and development monitor**

This publication is produced by the Centre for International Research Advisory Networks in close co-operation with the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge for Agricultural and Rural Development Programme and the national and regional Indigenous Knowledge Resource Centre. It is published three times a year in two regular volumes and one special issue.

For more information contact:
CIA
AN
POBox90734
2509 LS
The Hague
The Netherlands
Fax: 31 70 3510513

**School of Medical Education Newsletter**

*University of New South Wales*

This is the newsletter of the School of Medical Education at the University of New South Wales and the WHO regional training centre for health development. It contains conference reports, thesis abstracts, research news and information about courses and training.

For more information contact:
School of Medical Education
WHO Regional Training Centre
University of New South Wales
The Journal of Modern African Studies
This journal offers a quarterly survey of politics, economics and related topics in contemporary Africa. The main emphasis is upon the peoples and policies, the problems and progress of this dynamic and disparate continent, upon the many societies that are evolving rather than the essential characteristics of the old, and upon the present, rather than the past. The journal seeks to promote a deeper understanding of what is happening in Africa today. Book reviews are also published.

For more information contact:
Cambridge University Press Bookshop
Jenny Jullien (Director)
1 Trinity Street
Cambridge CB2 1SZ
UK
Tel 0223 333333

Children Australia
This is a quarterly journal of The National Children’s Bureau of Australia Inc., an independent, NGO committed to improving the quality of care and life opportunities available to children in Australia. Since its establishment in 1971, the NCBA has played an important advocacy role in support of children. Through its publications, information services, conferences and research activities, the NCBA promotes a national and multi-disciplinary approach to children’s issues.

For more information contact:
The Editor, Children Australia
c/- Department of Social Work
LaTrobe University
Plenty Road
Bundoora
Victoria 3083
Australia

PRODDER
This quarterly newsletter is a clearing house for news, information and research about development-related issues, and is widely distributed to organisations and agencies throughout South Africa and abroad. Each issue deals with a different theme of development. The March 1993 issue dealt with women and development, and the June edition was on environment and population issues. The newsletter welcomes contributions on current research, new publications, conferences and general news.

For more information contact:
David Bamard
PRODDER Coordinator
PO Box 32410
Braamfontein 2017
South Africa

Agenda - A quarterly journal about women and gender
Agenda aims to provide a forum for comment, discussion and debate on all aspects of women’s lives, particularly those in South Africa. The thematic issues and analytical articles cover many different aspects including rural development, culture and tradition, women in Southern Africa, women’s health and violence. Agenda also carries reports on current issues, conferences, workshops as well as features such as reviews, a legal column and a health column.

For more information contact: Agenda
29 Ecumenical Centre Trust
20 St Andrews Street
4001 Durban
South Africa

Learning for Health
This magazine provides an international forum for health education, health promotion and human resource development in primary health care. Its emphasis is on practical ideas and articles for trainers of health workers and educators, and on resources which are readily available. Learning for health in produced twice a year by the Education Resource Group at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. It is free to developing countries, with an annual subscription of 10 pounds to developed countries.

For more information contact:
CRDA
PO Box 5674
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

The Round Table
The Round Table was founded in 1910, and provides analysis and commentary on all aspects of international affairs. The journal is a major source of coverage of the policy issues concerning the contemporary Commonwealth and its role in international affairs, with occasional articles on themes of historical interest.

For more information contact:
Carfax Publishing Company
PO Box 25
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3UE
UK

Social Policy Research Centre Newsletter
The SPRC Newsletter provides a quarterly summary of the research and activities of the Social Policy Research Centre. Distributed free of charge to Australian and overseas subscribers, each issue contains one or more brief articles on social policy, a report from the Director, reports
on research projects, summaries of recent conferences and seminars, notices of forthcoming Centre events and reviews of new books in social policy.

For more information contact:
Julia Martin, SPRC
UNSW
PO Box 1, Kensington
NSW 2033
Australia

Family Matters
This journal is published three times a year by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The journal provides up-to-date research and statistics on changing patterns of family relationships, cost of child care and related issues. It also publishes expert analysis and commentary on research findings, features from the Institute's Australian Family & Society Abstracts database, conference and workshop reports, and book reviews.

For more information contact:
Australian Institute of Family Studies
300 Queen Street
Melbourne, Vic 3000
Australia
Tel 03 608 6888
Fax 03 600 0886

Working papers

Chinese Economy Research Unit
Economics Department, University of Adelaide
A$5.00 within Australia, A$7.50 overseas

93/1 The measurement of efficiency: A review of the theory and empirical applications to China, Yanrui Wu

93/2 One industry, two regimes: The Chinese textile sector growth, Yanrui Wu

93/3 Domestic distortions, production and international trade in China: An analytical framework, Zhang Xiaohao

93/4 The sequencing of economic reform, Richard Pomfret

Economics Division, Research School of Pacific Studies
Australian National University
A$8.00 per paper

South Pacific


93/6 John Gibson, Rice self-sufficiency and the terms of trade: Why rice is a good thing to import, 38 pp.

East Asia
93/6 Zhang Xiao Guang, Reforming centrally planned foreign trade systems: Chinese experiences, 36 pp.

93/5 Xin Meng and Bob Gregory, Expanding the scope of human capital theory, 34 pp.

SouthEast Asia

93/5 Lorraine Comer and Yulfita Rabardjo, Indonesian health policy into the twenty-first century: The role of demand, 34 pp.

Development Issues
93/5 Lorraine Comer, Co-ordination of human resource development policy-making, planning and implementation, 26pp.

93/4 E. S. Leung, Exchange Rate Regimes and Outward Looking Growth, 40 pp.


For information contact, Bibliotech, ANUTECH, Reply Paid 440, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia, Fax 06 257 5088.
Courses

University of New South Wales

School of Medical Education, WHO Regional Training Centre for Health Development

The School conducts postgraduate academic programmes at Masters and Doctoral levels and also arranges special programmes and short courses to meet specific needs.

Courses include:

- Master of Personnel Education
- Graduate Diploma of Health Personnel Education
- Master of Clinical Education
- Graduate Diploma of Clinical Education
- Master of Public Health
- Doctor of Philosophy

Short courses for 1994 will be:

- 24-25 March, Teaching skills in clinical settings
- 20-30 March, Assessment of clinical competence
- 23-27 May, Issues in competency based training
- 20-23 June, Teaching skills in classroom settings
- 7-9 September, Continuing medical education I
- 7-8 November, Continuing medical education II
- 10-12 August, Quality improvement in health personnel education

The courses are open to both Australian and overseas participants.

For more information contact:
The Administrator
School of Medical Education
University of New South Wales
PO Box 1
Kensington
NSW 2033
Australia
Tel 02 697 2500
Fax 02 663 4946

Training programmes in Africa

Commonwealth Regional Health Training Secretariat for East, Central and Southern Africa

The Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat awards scholarships for training programmes offered by institutions in East, Central and Southern Africa.

Diploma courses (1-2 years) include:

- Public health engineering
- Dermatology
- Maintenance and repair of medical equipment

Short Courses (3-6 weeks)

- Maternal and child nutrition
- Health management and administration for senior and middle level managers
- Training of trainers in hospital supplies and stores management
- Safe blood and blood products management
- Reproductive epidemiology
- Biostatistics and research methodology
- Reproductive biology and research methodology
- Research management

Fellowships and research grants in reproductive health research are available.

For more information contact:
The Regional Secretary
CRHCS
PO Box 1009
Arusha
Tanzania
Tel 057 8362
Fax 057 8292

Massey University

Massey University offers a minimum one-year postgraduate diploma, and a minimum two-year MPhis in development studies. Both Diploma and MPhis students study core papers 'Development and Underdevelopment' and Development project management. Optional papers can be taken from one or more areas of specialist. There are also opportunities for doctoral studies.

For more information contact:
Development Studies
Massey University
Palmerston North
New Zealand
Tel 0 6 3569 099
Fax 0 6 3505 627

Development Bulletin 29
Centre for Development Studies
University College of Swansea, Wales, UK

The Centre for Development Studies promotes the study of development policy and planning in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. Courses are offered for development workers, administrators, planners, and academics working in these countries. The Centre's teaching programme includes the following:

- Research supervision leading to the degree of PhD or MPhil
- MSc (Econ) taught courses (12 months)
- Postgraduate diplomas (9 months)
- Short courses/study programs (12 weeks)
- BSc (Econ) in Development Studies
- Diploma in Development Studies (12 months)

The MSc (Econ) and Diploma courses are offered in Social Development Planning and Management, Development Policy and Planning, Health Planning and Development, and Regional Development and Planning. The short courses scheduled for 1994-95 are:

- Social Planning Skills for Natural Resource Managers
- Participation and Development
- Population, Development and Reproductive Health
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Development Projects.

For further information contact:
The Admissions Secretary
University College of Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea SA2 8PP
Wales
UK
Tel 0792 295332
Fax 0792 295682

Graduate Certificate of Business - Specialisation in Asian Business

Monash University

The Department of Banking and Finance, Monash University, is offering a new Graduate Certificate of Business, specialising in Asian business. The course is designed for graduates and professionals with a background in economics, law, business, banking and finance, accounting or management whose career requires a working knowledge of commercial law combined with an awareness of the background regional, political, economic and social factors in commercial decision-making in Asia.

For further information contact:
Course Leader, Graduate Certificate in Business
Department of Banking and Finance
Monash University
PO Box 197
East Caufield
Melbourne, Victoria 3145
Australia
Tel (03) 573 2188 / (03) 573 2587
Fax (03) 583 5425

International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development

Ahmedabad, India

The following short courses will be run by the ICECD in 1994:

Training of trainers for women in entrepreneurship

24 January - 19 February 1994

This programme is designed for trainers, government officers, policy makers, teachers and people involved with training and promotion of small industry.

Group entrepreneurship and co-operatives for rural women

7-26 March 1994

This programme will include the following modules: women and entrepreneurship; policy and programmes for rural women; skills for identification and selection of women; income generating training, trainers skills.

For more information contact:
International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development (ICECD)
1, Tapovan Society Nehru Nagar Char Pasta Satellite Road Ahmedabad 380 015 India
Tel 91 272 461620 Fax 91 272 300124

Auckland University

Auckland University has launched a Masters in Development Studies. The programme is based in the social sciences. The course normally comprises four papers and a thesis to the value of three papers.

For more information contact:
Dr Ivanica Vodanovich
Sociology
Auckland University
Auckland
New Zealand

December 1993
Other development resources

Pacific Women's Directory

PWRB Publications, 1993, 200pp., US$25.00 (free to SPC member countries)

The Pacific Women's Directory lists over 500 women's organisations in the Pacific. It details the goals, activities and contact numbers for most organisations. It includes groups involved in community health, education, violence prevention, income generation, craft and politics. It is intended that the directory will be updated annually.

For more information contact:
Pacific Women's Resource Bureau Publications
South Pacific Commission
BP D5
Noumea
New Caledonia
Fax: 687 263818

Pacific Women's Information Resources Leaflet

This leaflet lists titles of 38 magazines, serials, newsletter and journals about women in the Pacific and around the globe. There is a short description of the contents of each publication plus details on where to get it.

For more information contact:
South Pacific Commission
BP D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia
Fax 687 263818

Equal partners: Gender awareness and Australian development co-operation


This booklet describes some of the problems women the world over face. It outlines the programmes and approaches of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, particularly with regard to health, education, environment and violence against women.

For more information contact:
AIDAB Public Affairs
GPO Box 887
Canberra, ACT 2601
Australia
Tel 06 276 4970
Fax 06 276 4695

Facts and Reports

Facts and Reports is a fortnightly collection of international press cuttings on southern Africa. It is a publication of the Holland Committee on southern Africa.

For more information contact:
Facts and Reports
Oudezijds Achterburgwal 173
1012 DJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Western Samoa's census of agriculture: Major features and implications for development

1992, UNSW Centre for South Pacific Studies, Monograph No. 6, free of charge, 42 pp.

For more information contact:
Centre for South Pacific Studies
UNSW
PO Box 1
Kensington
NSW 2033
Australia

Asia-Pacific Research Network: Directory

The University of Wollongong's Asia-Pacific Research Network is compiling a directory of expertise on the Asia-Pacific region at the University. The directory aims to: facilitate the development of research and teaching on the region through exchange of information, ideas and contacts; encourage the development of interdisciplinary co-operation; demonstrate the expertise of the University in the region by showing the amount of work already done; and provide a basis for possible future applications for research funding.

For more information contact:
CHECK THIS WITH STEPHEN BEFORE PUBLICATION
Stephen Castles
Asia-Pacific Research Network
c/Centre for Multicultural Studies
University of Wollongong
53 North Fields Ave
Gwynneville
NSW 2500

AIDAB Publications

AIDAB produces information on development and Australia's neighbours. Recent publications include resource material on children, gender awareness, indigenous peoples and food aid. Many of AIDAB's publications are suitable as educational materials for primary and secondary students.

For more information contact:
AIDAB Public Affairs
PO Box 887
Canberra, ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: (06) 276 4737
Fax: (06) 276 4695
The national directory of cross-cultural training
(2nd edition)

Multicultural Centre 1993

The second edition of the Directory is an expanded and updated version of the first edition, which was out of print within a few months of publication in 1991. It is a handy guide for those seeking training in cross-cultural counseling and managing a multicultural workforce. It lists organisations and trainers offering cross-cultural courses by State and Territory, and provides details of courses on non-English background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and international issues. The Directory is available for $24.95 plus $5.00 postage and handling.

Women's voices

This is a new teaching kit suitable for use in Geography, History, Citizenship Education, Home Economics, Economics, History and Drama. Women's voices explores the varied roles of women around the world, their struggles and their achievements in bringing about positive change for themselves, their community and their nation. Their fields of activity cover industry, the environment, and the struggle of indigenous people, amongst others. Students are encouraged to reflect on the role of women around the world and identify the links between women in Australia and those in other countries, and explore ways in which to address inequities and injustices encountered by the women they meet.

PRODDERS's Southern African development directory

David Barnard (ed) 1993, 550pp., US$40.00

This is an assessment and comprehensive directory of Southern African development agencies and organisations. It contains introductory chapters on the African and Southern African development scenario, and covers information on government departments, NGOs, research institutions, development corporations and banks, international funding agencies, and UN organisations.

Organisational profiles

The Inter-University Consortium on Development Studies/WA (ICDS/WA)

This consortium brings together academics at the University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University and Edith Cowan University, working in the area of development. The Consortium has a strong focus on issues of social development relating to the Asia-Pacific Region and includes researchers drawn from a range of social sciences disciplines and health sciences. The Consortium is being co-ordinated by the newly established Centre of Development Studies at Edith Cowan University. One of the first major activities of the Consortium has been to organise the recently held Inaugural Conference on the theme, 'Social dimensions of development: Changing Australian perspective'. The Keynote speaker was James Ingram, and the conference, hosted by Edith Cowan University, was opened by Professor Peter Boyce, Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University.

Ideas Centre

The Ideas Centre is a development education centre and is funded by organisations such as Community Aid Abroad/Freedom From Hunger, Overseas Service Bureau, Austcare and AIDAB. In recent years grants have been supplemented by selling books to schools and teachers, and a full mail-order service is available to individuals. The Ideas Centre sells books from over a hundred different publishers including Oxfam, Panos, WWF, LAB, CIIR, Zed, James Currey, Earthscan and ITP. Any special titles required can be ordered from most overseas and local publishers.
Social Policy Research Centre

University of New South Wales

The Social Policy Research Centre was established in January 1980 under an agreement between the University of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government. Its main function is to undertake and sponsor research work on important aspects of social policy. The Centre's four research areas at the moment are: poverty, inequality and standards of living; social security, taxation and the labour market; community support services; and citizenship, social rights and the welfare state.

For more information contact:
SPRC
UNSW
PO Box 1
Kensington
NSW 2033
Australia

The Development Resource Centre, NZ

The Centre is a library which was established in 1993 and provides information and referrals for people working for community development at home and abroad, and fosters links between local and overseas communities. Several subjects are covered in the collection, including environment, aid and development issues, country-specific information, global peace issues and disaster studies. Periodicals, newspapers and file information may be copied, and books may be borrowed. Videos may be viewed at the Centre, or borrowed for a small charge.

For more information contact:
The Development Resource Centre
PO Box 11-345
Wellington
Aotearoa
New Zealand

Fred Hollows Eritrean Education and Training Trust

The University of New South Wales has established a Trust Fund to honour and recognise the distinguished service of the late Professor Fred Hollows. It has established a collegial and co-operative agreement with the University of Asmara in Eritrea. The trust will help develop education and training links between Australia and Eritrea. It will raise funds for linked projects to rehabilitate and develop the University of Asmara and enable the exchange of staff and students between Eritrea and Australia.

For more information contact:
Margaret Hamilton
Fred Hollows Eritrean Trust
c/- Institute of Professional Education
UNSW
PO Box 1 Kensington
NSW 2033
Australia
Tel 02 697 3184

CAPOW!

The Coalition of Participating Organisations of Women is a coalition of national women's organisations formed to facilitate networking among non government women's groups. They are exploring a number of ways in which the network can facilitate women's organisations to communicate with each other. Telephone conferencing, face-to-face meetings, the CAPOW! Bulletin, regional forums, The CAPOW! database of information about national women's organisations, and the contact point provided the Canberra office are all ways of communicating. CAPOW! will work with government and community groups to disseminate and gather information from women and women's organisations in the lead up to the Beijing World Conference on women. They aim to work co-operatively with bodies such as the Office of the Status of Women (OSW) to ensure that the status of women is promoted through both government and non-government organisations.

For more information contact:
Coalition of Australian Participating Organisations of Women
c/- O'Conner Post Office
ACT 2601
Australia
Tel 06 247 7446
Fax 06 247 7446

Australian Third World Health Group (A3WHG)

This organisation is the umbrella group for a number of medical and health organisations around Australia. It acts as the liaison body with the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and AIDAB. A3WHG publishes a newsletter on Third World health issues.

For more information contact:
Australian Third World Health Group
6 Russell Street
Woollahra
NSW 2025
Australia

South Australian Development Education Centre (SADEC)

This organisation publishes a quarterly newsletter called Developments which focuses on development education resources, upcoming events, and volunteer information.

For more information contact:
South Australian Development Education Centre (SADEC)
First Floor, 155 Pirie Street
Adelaide
South Australia 5005
Australia
Tel 08 223 5795
The Australian Development Studies Network

• The Network offers a forum for discussion and debate of development issues.
• It provides members with up-to-date information and notices of forthcoming events.
• It helps members to inform each other about their work.
• It gives extensive, often annotated, listings of written and other information and education resources.
• Membership is open to anyone interested. Members come from fields as diverse as health, economics, agriculture, administration and human rights.

If you wish to join this growing group of development workers, professionals, academics, educators, administrators and policy-makers, please complete the form below and return it with your payment.

Mail To: Australian Development Studies Network
ANU
CANBERRA ACT 0200

Please find enclosed my annual membership/subscription fee of

$25 Ordinary OR $15 Student Rate

for membership of the Australian Development Studies Network which includes a subscription to Development Bulletin and Briefing Papers.

NAME: ________________________________________ 
POSITION:_______________________________________
ORGANISATION: __________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________

__________________________________________ POSTCODE: _______

PHONE: ___________________ FAX: ________________

NOTE: All cheques should be made payable to ANUTech Pty. Ltd.
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Manuscripts are normally accepted on the understanding that they are unpublished and not on offer to another publication. However, they may subsequently be republished with acknowledgement of the source (see ‘Copyright’ above). Manuscripts should be double-spaced with ample margins. They should be submitted both in hard copy (2 copies) and, if possible on disk specifying the program used to enter the text. No responsibility can be taken for any damage or loss of manuscripts, and contributors should retain a complete copy of their work.

Style

Quotation marks should be double; single within double.
Spelling: English (OED with ‘-ise’ endings).

Notes

(a) Simple references without accompanying comments to be inserted in brackets at appropriate place in text, eg. (Yung 1989).
(b) References with comments should be kept to a minimum and appear as endnotes, indicated consecutively through the article by numerals in superscript.

Reference list

If references are used, a reference list should appear at the end of the text. It should contain all the works referred to, listed alphabetically by author’s surname (or name of sponsoring body where there is not identifiable author). Authors should make sure that there is a strict correspondence between the names and years in the text and those on the reference list. Book titles and names of journals should be italicised or underlined; titles of articles should be in single inverted commas. Style should follow: author’s surname, forename and or initials, date, title of publication, publisher and place of publication. Journal references should include volume, number (in brackets), date and page numbers. Examples:


Publication/resource listings

An important task of the Network is to keep members up-to-date with the latest literature and other resources dealing with development-related topics. To make it as easy as possible for readers to obtain the publications listed, please include price information (including postage) and the source from which materials can be obtained.