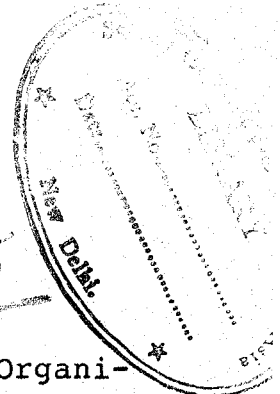


M/29/82

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH (PR) ACTIVITIES OF THE  
INSTITUTE OF ADULT EDUCATION AND EXTRA-MURAL  
STUDIES, FOURAH BAY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF  
SIERRA LEONE (INSTADEX)

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The Government of Sierra Leone and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), national as well as international, have always embarked with varying degrees of success on community development projects aimed at improving the quality of life of Sierra Leoneans. A few have exploited the country's exuberant cultural and dramatic traditions and have used the indigenous performing arts especially drama for education, conscientization and mobilization and for the dissemination of development messages and packages.

Theatre for Development has increasingly been recognised and used by Third World countries as a 2-way, dialogical, interpersonal and participatory research (PR) communication, educational and development process with in-built feedback mechanisms using the peoples' language and idioms and other art forms, and dealing with problems of direct relevance to their socio-economic and other realities. It is now recognised among development planners and analysts that the traditional communication modes in extension work are largely top-down, one-way, authoritarian and directive because extension and development workers often assume the "I-know-what-is-best-for-you stance".

In consonance with our Institute's main focus in its outreach programmes for the triennium 1986-88, we have mounted a series of 2-week training workshops for development workers in the theory and practice of Community Theatre for Education and Development.

The main objectives of the training workshops have been:

- (a) To initiate theatre workers and activists, development and extension workers in the process of Theatre for Development.

- (b) To conduct hands-on participatory research (PR) sessions in village-based Theatre for Development involving the participants in establishing rapport, mutual confidence and understanding with the villagers, problem identification, data collection and analysis, story improvisation, performance design, drama making dramatic performance pre-and first-performance discussions, evaluation and follow-up strategies.
- (c) To stimulate village communities by means of dramatizations to initiate discussions and follow-up collective action to solve their pressing community problems.
- (d) To assess the efficacy of the workshop methodologies as stimuli to conscientization and strategies for community-based adult education, community and rural development.

After the 1st Training Workshop in 1986, our Institute launched the programme SWASH (Sale Water and Adequate Sanitation for Health) in an attempt to solve the 2 most pressing and dramatized community problems in the 3 villages in which the workshop was operationalised. The programme SWASH comprises action programmes in Health and Sanitation by way of concretization of the awareness that way created in the village communities by the dramatizations. So far a spring has been boxed in an attempt to reduce the high incidence of water-borne diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera arising out of polluted water and unhealthy sanitation practices. We intend to construct water wells and dig pit latrines in the 2nd and 3rd phases of the Programme SWASH.

We shall be too pleased to exchange and share ideas, experiences, insights and perceptions with any AALAE member in this new genre of theatre.

There are copies of the following for your perusal:

1. An article which I produced for publication in 1986 entitled Innovative Community Theatre for Integrated Rural Development (CTHIRD) in Sierra Leone - The Tellu Workshop Experience
2. The Background Documents for the first 2 Two-week Training Workshop for Development and Extension Colleges in November 1986 and in March/April 1987.

For more information, please CONTACT

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