

N - SPECIAL EDUCATION

Education of the handicapped and the
educationally sub-normal

1. Title of Project

TEACHER TRAINING AND CURRICULUM;
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DEPRIVED

Institution

Malaysia Federal Ministry of Education.
(In co-operation with the Bernard Van
Leer Foundation of Holland)

Description

In 1973 the Federal Ministry of Education, Malaysia, in co-operation with the Bernard Van Leer Foundation set up an integrated programme of educational activities for "deprived" children. Exploratory meetings were held early in 1973 with the Faculty of Education staff of the University of Science, Malaysia, and the University of Malaya to discuss the necessary preliminary research. The Ministry of Education organised a pre-school education workshop in April 1973, followed in September 1973 by a national seminar on Early Childhood Education. As a result the Ministry has been able to define its policy and formulate strategies for launching an Early Childhood and Primary School Education Programme in Malaysia.

The main target population of children in the project are those of pre-school and lower primary school age in rural and depressed urban areas. The 3-year project will aim at identifying weaknesses and recommending improvements in the present Pre-School and Lower Primary School Education Programmes in order to incorporate compensatory/enrichment efforts in the normal school activities.

A team of teachers specially trained by the project staff will implement the programme.

The choice of schools in which to operate will depend on the willingness of the school staff to participate in the experimental work of the Project and the ability of the school staff to co-operate with the Project Staff.

Special orientation and training activities will be organised in order to prepare teacher-trainers, teacher-aides, social agency workers, administrators, parents and community leaders in their role as participants in the project. All this will require improvements in the teaching - learning situations encountered in the schools i.e. their organisation, administration, time-table, personnel, equipment

facilities etc.

The Project Staff in association with the project schools and the Curriculum Development Centre of the Ministry of Education, will be responsible for developing curriculum. Such curriculum must be flexible in character and exploratory in design taking into account such factors as teachers' competence, teaching-learning conditions, parents' attitudes towards the school and the childrens' own readiness. It must also be relevant to the special needs of Malaysian rural and depressed urban areas.

Research is an integral part of the project and will be planned by the project staff team in collaboration with the Curriculum Development Centre, the Educational Planning and Research Division of the Ministry of Education, the Universities and the Teacher-Training College.

Date of Commencement - 1973

Source of Finance

Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Holland.
