

12. Resources from the Community

Resources from the community take two main forms: (a) sponsorship for school projects, and (b) training through on-the-job experience.

(a) Sponsorship for School Projects

Sponsorship of school projects is commonly sought from:

- Parent-Teacher Associations,
- the whole community in the area surrounding the school,
- charitable organisations such as the Rotary Club and Lions Club, and
- local businesses and factories.

A companion Commonwealth Secretariat book in this series, called *New Resources for Education* (see the back cover of this book for details) discusses strategies in some detail. It pays particular attention to the need for clear project formulation, good financial accounting, and adequate accountability. Readers are referred to this book for further ideas, but it is meanwhile worth drawing out four particularly relevant points:

- * Outside organisations become more willing to support projects that are well planned. They want to know that their money will be used properly, for its intended purpose.
- * Most organisations prefer to help with capital rather than recurrent investments. They feel that capital investments are usually more visible, and do not entail an ongoing commitment.
- * Because sponsors often provide only capital equipment, schools must ensure that they have enough money for recurrent costs, to implement and maintain projects.
- * Different organisations may be willing to help with different aspects of the same projects.

(b) Training through On-the-Job Experience

Specific on-the-job experience can greatly increase the effectiveness of training. When industries and businesses help schools with such schemes, they are offering another form of community help.

The format and duration of work experience programmes varies. In Guyana and Dominica, for example, students are normally released for one day a week over a period of four to twelve weeks. In Jamaica and St Lucia, by contrast, pupils generally gain more concentrated experience, often during a vacation.

However, work-experience programmes are often hard to organise:

- the school must have the necessary initial contacts, and must keep in regular and friendly touch;
- the school must ensure that the students' experiences are worthwhile, and that they are not just used as a source of cheap labour; and
- the teachers must try to relate the school curriculum to a wide range of out-of-school contexts;

The boxes on pages 65 and 66 compare training on and off school premises, and highlight advantages and disadvantages.

How does Training in the School Compound Compare with Attachments to Industry or Business?

ON SCHOOL PREMISES	OFF SCHOOL PREMISES
<p>S * — Economic benefits to institution</p>	<p>— Students perform better in actual work situations.</p>
<p>T * — Agriculture programmes have positive influence on children's diet and nutrition.</p>	<p>— Students gain experience of the world of work and their specific trade/ occupation.</p>
<p>E * — The school environment is more balanced, having both academic and practical work.</p>	<p>— The transition from school to work is easier.</p>
<p>G * — In boarding schools, no transport costs.</p>	<p>— Students become aware of employers' expectations.</p>
<p>T * —</p>	<p>— Students gain experience with equipment that schools cannot afford.</p>
<p>H * —</p>	
<p>S * —</p>	

ON SCHOOL PREMISES	OFF SCHOOL PREMISES
<p>W * — Costly initial outlay.</p>	<p>— Some students unable to get appropriate work.</p>
<p>E * — Inadequate tools, materials etc.</p>	<p>— Students required to do menial tasks rejected by co-workers.</p>
<p>A * — Products cannot compete with those from industries.</p>	<p>— Pupils may have long daily travel.</p>
<p>K * — Vacations disrupt work.</p>	<p>— Lack of opportunities in rural areas.</p>
<p>N * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	<p>— Inadequate supervision.</p>
<p>E * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	<p>— Academic subjects get neglected.</p>
<p>S * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	<p>— Employers make unrealistic demands</p>
<p>S * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	
<p>E * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	
<p>S * — Shortage of instructors.</p>	