

# Part V:

## Concluding Observations

Although community management and financing of education are not new, few authorities in recent years have given them much attention. The combination of economic depression and increased demand for education has made the topic even more important than it has been in the past.

This resource book has highlighted some of the issues and strategies which deserve attention from governments, from voluntary agencies, and from community leaders. Because it covers a wide range of countries and contexts, some of its specific points apply more strongly to some settings than to others. Yet the general principles are universally applicable.

Page 10 has already suggested some ways in which the book can be used, and the reader is referred back to it. In conclusion, it is stressed that promotion of community management and financing is less a science than an art. Above all, it depends on the personalities of the participants, and on their relationships with each other.

The final observations, are as follows:

*Governments, Churches and other Voluntary Bodies* are advised to:

- \* Publicise the virtues of increased self-help,
- \* Provide supporting services for self-help projects,
- \* Monitor the range and activities of projects,
- \* Observe the gaps and weaknesses, and analyse the reasons for them,
- \* Exercise supervision and control where necessary, especially to maintain quality and protect individuals against exploitation, but
- \* Avoid stifling local initiatives,

- \* Be flexible,
- \* Be prepared to delegate decisions to officers who have an intimate understanding of local projects, and
- \* Liaise frequently and sensitively with other bodies and with self-help groups.

*Community Leaders* are advised to:

- \* Analyse their needs and resources very carefully — ask themselves whether they really do want a school, or whether they really do want expansion, and whether it can be properly supported.
- \* Appoint an active School Committee, which has a particularly committed Chairman,
- \* Liaise carefully with governments,
- \* Liaise carefully with churches, other non-government organisations, and donors,
- \* Liaise carefully with neighbouring schools,
- \* Keep careful accounts, and have them audited,
- \* Pay constant attention to quality as well as quantity.