

Unesco Notes

In this, my final contribution as OMEP's Representative to UNESCO, instead of another bibliography, I have listed references to Early Childhood Education which I have found in documents prepared for the Twenty Third General Conference of UNESCO, taking place at present in Bulgaria.

At the time of writing, final conclusions and acceptance of the Draft Programme and Budget for the next triennial period are not yet available. As there has been little information as to the priorities UNESCO affords to Early Childhood Education and how it may effect OMEP, I find these general references to be encouraging.

There will undoubtedly be modifications and changes of emphasis in apportioning resources and allocations, but I would hope that our status as an N.G.O. in category B, means that we will continue to co-operate closely with UNESCO in any contracts within our competency and that as far as possible our subvention remains at the present level.

For my part, in making my farewells, I would like to thank the following UNESCO officials concerned with OMEP, Notably Mr Armerding, Miss Ida Subaran, Dr Schwendler, Mr Brunswic, Mr Zachariev and Dr Guruge of UNICEF, for all their kind help and co-operation since I first took over the representation in 1978.

Gillian Beddington.

Exerpt from the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 1986-87
Vol.I, B.47, page 32.

PROMOTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, Sub Programme II 2.3.

"Emphasis will continue to be laid on co-operation among Member States and collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations System, particularly UNICEF, and with interested non-governmental organizations and institutions, especially in regard to exchanges of information and experience concerning the drawing up of integrated programmes and alternative strategies for education, with a view to fostering the all-round development of young children. Special attention will be given to disadvantaged children; it is proposed that pilot projects can be undertaken with a view to helping them overcome the socio-economic and cultural difficulties that may face them.

The Organization will provide technical assistance for the framing of alternative strategies for the training of

pre-school education personnel, the preparation of training materials and the production of teaching materials using local resources. It is planned that action to develop the awareness of education officials and administrators will be stepped up so that early childhood education may be taken into consideration in the preparation and implementation of education plans and policies and in legislation."

Agenda for the General Conference

PROMOTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Sub Programme 11.2.3. Proposed action;

2". 002219 1 "Support for the implementation of early childhood education (ECE) service extension Programmes. (ED/EPP/RO)

c. Technical support, mainly in the form of advisory services, documentation and contracts for the execution of pilot projects aimed at helping young under privileged children in rural and peri-rural areas to overcome socio-economic and cultural handicaps and promoting the development of parent education programmes; analysis and dissemination of the results."

02220 2. "Training of Pre-school education personnel. (ED/EPP/RO).

b. Compilation and exchange of legislative and administrative instruments on early childhood education."

02622 "Action on behalf of migrant workers and their families."

"Role of countries of origin in preserving the cultural identity of migrant workers and their families." (ED/SPO). "Training of educators of the country of origin to give instruction to the children of migrant workers in the countries of immigration, in their mother tongue and on the civilization of their home country."

"Summary List of activities classified as having second priority in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board. Document 23 C/6."

"After the completion of the work of the 122nd Session of the Executive Board, the document will be supplemented by a list of appropriations for subventions to international Non Governmental Organisations that the Board recommends should be classified as second priority to a total amount of \$900,000."

EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES (Units responsible; Education Sector, Social and Human Sciences Sector.)

13310.4. "Extension and Consolidation of the Associated Schools Project."

b. "Award of fellowships to national co-ordinators of the Project to enable them to examine the functioning of the project in other countries; development of evaluation instruments and short-term pilot projects to strengthen pre-school education in the context of international understanding."

"Sub programmes 11.2.4. Promotion of Early Childhood Education. Unchanged. Decision that there will be no need to adjust the Medium Term Programme for 1984-1989.

4th Consultation of Members States on the IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION. Document 23 C/72. page 31-32.

A comprehensive analysis of the existence of pre-school education in reply to questionnaires sent to Member States of UNESCO. The replies from over 30 Members cover the existence of pre-primary education, integration within the educational system, whether wholly or partly free, policies and educational objectives, and development of Pre-school education services. Statement attached to Questionnaire." Although it is not a



principle set forth in the Convention, it is generally acknowledged that PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION plays an important role in achieving equality of opportunity for access to education and for success at school, particularly for children from modest socio-economic backgrounds. You are therefore asked to supply information on the existence of pre-primary educational services, and whether or not they are free, or on any plans to provide such services, particularly in rural areas which would represent an additional form of assistance for families concerned."

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Mes Chers Amis,

Dans un précédent courrier, je vous ai fait part des pertes subies par notre Comité Mexicain dans le tremblement de terre du 19 septembre 1985.

Nos amis se sont immédiatement mobilisés pour faire face à ce terrible événement par des aides psychologiques, éducatives et matérielles aux sans abris et aux enfants orphelins. Les 16 sous-comités à l'échelle du pays sont pleinement engagés dans cette action qui se distribue dans cinq directions majeures.

Le siège du Comité ayant été détruit, le secrétariat fonctionne provisoirement au domicile personnel de la Vice-Présidente administrative du Comité. Vous pouvez donc joindre la Présidente pour toute forme d'aide que vous souhaitez apporter, en écrivant à

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Naturellement l'aide économique est actuellement la plus souhaitée.

La réussite du dernier congrès national qui a réuni cette année à Mexico plus de 1 500 participants, nous donne une idée de la capacité de mobilisation des forces vives au service de la petite enfance que possède notre Comité Mexicain.

Nous lui adressons l'expression de nos sentiments d'admiration, de sympathie et de solidarité pour l'oeuvre de sauvegarde qu'il est en train d'accomplir en tentant de redonner espoir à ceux qui ont été le plus éprouvés, en leur procurant un gîte, en les aidant à recouvrer la santé, à établir de nouveaux liens sociaux, à reconstruire leurs biens perdus et leur vie intérieure.

Au nom de l'OMEP, je remercie tous ceux qui manifestent leur solidarité à nos collègues éprouvés.

Madeleine GOUTARD
Présidente Mondiale