



2008/ED/UNLD/PI/EP/12

United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO sub-regional Conference *Addressing Literacy Challenges in South, South West and Central Asia: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches*. (29 - 30 November 2007, New Delhi, India)

Programme name: Participation in Economy through Non-Formal Training

Implemented by: Afghan National Association for Adult Education (ANAF AE)

Basic facts

Country: Afghanistan

Starting year: 2005

Target Population: Youth and adults, mainly women

Operating in: rural areas of Bisud in the Wardak province for Hazarajat women

Main Funding: German Adult Education Association (DVV) and the German Federal Foreign Office

Contact: Mr. Bashir Khaliqi - bashir_khaliqi@hotmail.com

Brief Description

The programme which aims at promoting literacy for economic self-sufficiency of women is implemented by the Afghan National Association for Adult Education (ANAF AE) and operates currently through 'Adult Learning Centres' established in several towns. The programme combines literacy, employment skill training, income-related basic vocational training.

Rationale

Afghanistan has experienced a long period of war, internal armed struggle, and the Taliban regime. Its education indicators are among the lowest in the world, with girls and the rural population particularly disadvantaged. The educational needs of adults who are now responsible for the reconstruction, are enormous and complex. The demand for literacy education is huge and diverse and the existing literacy infrastructure, the number and the capacities of the literacy educators are insufficient. Existing programmes do not cover the whole country. The traditional literacy approach does not meet the needs of the illiterate population. A new national 5-year 'Strategic Education Plan' has been developed recently and needs

support from the international community. Illiteracy is particularly high among women which has many effects on domestic health, children's education levels, and overall economic development. Afghan women play a crucial socio-economic role in raising children and in small domestic production. The programme contributes to the empowerment of women and to social and economic development as a whole.

Objectives

This programme enables the individuals to improve their lives, find employment, generate income, calculate, operate as human beings, develop their potential, make critical decisions and to explore new values and actively participate in society.

Conceptual Model and Methodology

The programme is based on a flexible approach which considers the life prospects and social situations of the different target and age groups and their concrete interests and needs. It combines literacy with productive work, income generating and basic vocational training activities outside of the classroom. Here literacy learning - words, sentences and numeracy - are directly related to the work processes. These flexible literacy approaches require well-trained literacy educators and technical instructors, who are provided through the programme. Women are offered skills training on how to produce and market cookies, noodles, soap, sweets, etc. They obtained new skills on how to produce the products at a certain quality and how to sell them to the shops.