

Mauritius

## **MEMORANDUM**

From: Mr. L.S. Menelas, Adult Literacy, Resource Person, NWC

To : Mrs. M.C. Bibi Diop, Acting Secretary, NWC

Thro': Project Coordinator

Date: 28 January 2008

### **Report on Adult Literacy Programme**

#### **Objective**

The Adult Literacy Programme was launched in 1986. Its aim was to equip women with skills required to adapt themselves to the fast changing environment of our modern world, to play their role more effectively in the society and to undergo self-development, so as to enrich their lives through an on-going process of education and training.

From then on, basic skills in writing, reading and numeracy have been provided to women in many Centres throughout the island both in rural and urban areas. In 1990 the illiteracy rate stood at 23.9 percent, decreasing to 18.5 percent in 2000 (latest figures).

## Target Group

The Adult Literacy Programme targets women from 15 to 80 years old with no schooling or basic reading readiness. Most trainees (about 40%) come from the 40-60 age groups whilst few (about 10%) comes from below 20 years age group. Government policy to make primary and secondary education compulsory up to the age of 16 could be the reason for such disparity.

### **STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON ENROLLMENT**

The number of trainees since 1990 up till now is as follows:

| <b>Year</b> | <b>No. of Trainees</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1990        | 16                     |
| 1991        | 20                     |
| 1992        | 32                     |
| 1993        | 25                     |
| 1994        | 71                     |
| 1995        | 225                    |
| 1996        | 53                     |
| 1997        | 334                    |
| 1998        | 444                    |
| 1999        | 980                    |
| 2000        | 980                    |
| 2001        | 420                    |
| 2002        | 437                    |
| 2003        | 680                    |
| 2004        | 565                    |
| 2005        | 575                    |
| 2006        | 655                    |
| 2007        | 586                    |

The highest enrolment was recorded in 1999 and 2000 (**N=980**) while the lowest was in 1990 (**N=16**). However, during the last 6 years, the enrolment rate has remained more or less constant, **680** in 2003, **575** in 2005 and **586** in 2007.

### Venue

At present the NWC dispenses the Adult Literacy Course in 34 Centres, both in rural and urban areas, throughout the island. These Centres include Women's Centres, Community Centres, Social Welfare Centre and socio-cultural halls.

### Course Duration

Level I and II are carried out over a period of two years.

### Methodology

Methodology used is Functional Literacy with an 'eclectic' approach based on 'phonetics' and 'whole' language. Trainees are thus exposed to the very rudimentary principles of reading, writing and computing, of phonetics, syntax and semantics. In addition the following approaches are resorted to:

- Thematic – The programme focuses on themes rather than on disconnected concepts.
- Authentic - The programme focuses on the realistic rather than on the non-realistic
- Concrete - Sequential – emphasis is put on the tangible, the experiential and the imagery. Also care is taken that the level of difficulty is raised little by little.
- Holistic - Not only reading, but also writing and computing is taught. The trainees are encouraged to use their visual, listening and tactile skills.

Tools and materials used, amongst others, are: bank forms, cheques and enrollment forms, phone and cellular phones, newspapers. However, computers have not yet been introduced.

### Language used/taught

The Adult Literacy Programme puts much emphasis on the teaching of French and numeracy. English is also taught upon request, in the second year.

No. of Adult Literacy Instructresses: 8

### Qualifications of Instructresses

Form V with 5 Credits and have followed a training in Adult Literacy.

### Training of Trainers

The Adult Literacy Instructresses have pursued courses in Adult Literacy in at least one of the following institution:

1. CIFOD (Centre D'Information, de Formation, d'orientation et de développement)
2. MIE (Ministry of Education)
3. Caritas

All of them have followed either a sixty or a ninety-hour course dispensed by the Adult Literacy, Resource Person of the NWC.

### Terms of Work

- Sessional basis (up to 40 sessions/month) - 5
- Month-to-month basis – 3 (two hours a day)

### Remuneration and Allowances

The remuneration and allowances for the instructresses and the Adult Literacy Resource Person amount to about Rs861,000 per year.

### The Total Project Cost

The total project cost which cover mainly the remuneration and allowances for the education and the Resource Person/ the purchases of equipment and tools for the programme/ the Adult Literacy internal day expenses, amounts to approximately **Rs 975,000**.

### Funding of the Programme

Grant from Government through the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development, Family Welfare and Consumer Protection.

### Assessment and Certification

The trainees are assessed through a non-formal examination at the end of each year. They are awarded a certificate of completion of the course at the end of the second year.