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MEC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 196, s. 1981

INTENSIFIED SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY-ORIENTED
DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Schools Superintendents
Heads, Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. Pursuant to Republic Act No. 6425 otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 which mandates the Ministry of Education and Culture to formulate programs for the prevention of drug abuse, the Intensified School-Based Community-Oriented Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program is launched. The priority areas where the program will be implemented are Regions III and VI.
2. The objective of this program is to prevent and control drug abuse by strengthening national consciousness and developing desirable values among the children and youth.
3. In line with this program, a national seminar-workshop attended by selected regional and division coordinator-trainers was held at Bunot Lake Resort, San Pablo City on September 14-20, 1981.
4. Conformably with the agreement arrived at during the aforementioned seminar-workshop, regional and division coordinator-trainers are enjoined to conduct the pilot implementation of the Intensified School-Based Community-Oriented Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program in the selected divisions and districts. It is requested that this Office be furnished with the regional and division action programs duly approved by the Regional Director and the respective Superintendent of Schools. It is expected that full implementation of the program will be done as soon as the pilot programs have been evaluated. Support from this office will be limited to technical and material assistance.
5. To maximize utilization of resources, coordinator-trainers are requested to establish linkages with other government ministries as well as non-government and civic/religious agencies.

6. Inclosed is the description of the Intensified School-Based Community-Oriented Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program.
7. It is desired that this Memorandum be given preferential attention and action.

(SGD.) ONOFRE D. CORPUZ
Minister

Incl.:
As stated

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

- BUREAUS & OFFICES ✓
- DRUG EDUCATION ✓
- LEGISLATION ✓
- PROGRAM, SCHOOL ✓

PROJECT TITLE : INTENSIFIED SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY-ORIENTED DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

DURATION : February, 1981 to December, 1982

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY : Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC-DDB-UNESCO Special Project on Strategies for Drug Abuse Prevention Education)

SPONSORING AGENCY : Dangerous Drugs Board

RATIONALE:

Drug abuse is a menace which is escalating in the schools and communities. The increasing number of drug abusers and pushers in the country has greatly alarmed both government and non-government agencies. With the disturbing situation, a campaign against drug abuse which threatens the social, economic and political stability of the country was deemed imperative.

In mid-1980, the MEC-DDB-UNESCO Special Project on Drug Abuse Prevention Education launched an Intensified School-Based Community-Oriented Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program in the four school divisions in Metro Manila. The intensification campaign has involved various government organizations with the concerted efforts of the school system. The program was set to reach not only the adults but particularly the children and youth who are probable victims of the drug pushers. It has been noted however, that in spite of the joint forces of these agencies to fight drug abuse, the enemy has permeated the provinces where the problem was once considered remote, taking its tool not only in terms of personal effectiveness and efficiency but also on the lives of the youth.

It is in the light of the above situation that the MEC-DDB-UNESCO Special Project on Drug Abuse Prevention Education believes it necessary to set an all-out campaign that would extend beyond Metro Manila to penetrate places which are considered high risk areas.

The special project hopes to use this sub-project as a

5. Assess effectiveness and impact of the programs in the schools and communities in terms of:

Specific:

1. Identify areas with high incidence of drug abuse in schools and communities.
 - 1.1. Study existing program on drug abuse prevention in these schools and communities.
 - 1.2. Analyze the problems and needs related to drug abuse in the schools and communities.
2. Equip coordinators, school administrators, trainers/ implementors at different levels with skills in planning, implementing and evaluating a strong workable anti-drug abuse program.
 - 2.1. Evolve a handbook which will help the trainers/ implementors in carrying out their responsibilities.
 - 2.2. Train them in utilizing various strategies for drug abuse prevention among out-of-school youths, their parents and the community people.
 - 2.2.1. Affective education
 - 2.2.1.1. personality development
 - 2.2.1.2. values clarification
 - 2.2.1.3. decision-making exercises
 - 2.2.2. Alternative strategies
 - 2.2.3. Information dissemination
 - 2.2.4. Parent education
 - 2.2.5. Counselling
 - 2.2.6. Establishing linkages with government and non-government agencies
 - 2.3. Develop in them a sense of accountability and commitment.
3. Improve and strengthen existing programs in school and communities or evolve short and/or long-term programs for the prevention of drug abuse.
 - 3.1. Revise/evolve programs taking into consideration the identified problems and needs.
 - 3.2. Provide built-in evaluative strategies to facilitate periodic assessment of the project.
4. Provide assistance to trainers and implementors in implementing the programs in their respective

- 5.1. Awareness of the people of the program
- 5.2. Involvement of the people in the prevention activities
- 5.3. Extent to which the problem of drug abuse in the schools and communities is reduced
- 5.4. Degree of trainors'/implementors' commitment to the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Dangerous Drugs Board is envisaging an Integrated Plan of Action for the prevention of drug abuse. It has formulated several programs designed to prevent the problem of drug abuse from reaching an uncontrollable state. One of the programs is the MEC-DDB-UNESCO Special Project on Strategies for Drug Abuse Prevention Education which is making a research on the appropriate and effective strategies for preventing behavioral and social problems including drug abuse among young people.

The Intensified School-Based Community-Oriented Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program is a sub-project which supplements and complements the MEC-DDB-UNESCO Special Project. It extends the mother project to the community and provides for aspects not provided for in the latter. The clientele of the Special Project are the pupils and students in the formal school system. It is carried out in formal education setting using curricular approaches to develop strong personality and will power.

On the other hand, the clientele of the intensified program will be the out-of-school youths, their parents and the community people in general. Informal and non-formal education approaches will be used to help them clarify values, strengthen family ties and assist them in wise use of leisure hours. It will establish linkages with government and non-government agencies and utilize such strategies as parent education and alternative activities. It will build on existing school community efforts for preventing drug abuse.

B. Research

At the early stage of the program, areas reported to have high incidence of drug abuse will be identified. Previous studies and other related literature and materials will be analyzed and assessed. School community programs for preventing drug abuse presently carried on in these areas will be studied and utilized as basic for intensification of efforts. The technical staff will initiate a "pulong-pulong" with government officials and school and community leaders to gain insight into the real situation in the area. A survey instrument will be used to gather baseline data. Problems will be discussed so that the training group will have a basis for laying out activities which will fit the target areas.

C. Planning Stage

a. Conference with Regional Directors and Regional Coordinators

The regional directors and the regional supervisors who will be designated project coordinators of the regions identified as high risk areas of drug abuse and drug traffic will be invited to a conference for orientation. It is also expected that the regional school leaders will provide further insight into the problem of drug abuse in their respective areas. With this conference, it is hoped that administrative support and cooperation will be obtained for the successful implementation of the program.

D. Production of a Handbook for Trainers, Coordinators, Implementors

A handbook for trainers and implementors will be prepared by the research staff. Results of researches, literature on drug and other related topics will be included in the handbook to serve as guide and resource materials of the coordinators, trainers and implementors in their intensification campaign. Likewise, the needs of the areas involved in the project will be considered in the preparation of the handbook.

E. Training

II. Implementation Phase

A. Pilot Implementation

To evaluate the efficacy of the training program, a pilot core of trainers will be fielded. A team will monitor the pilot group to identify and thresh out problems which may crop up during the implementation.

B. Revision of Programs

Feedback from the pilot group will be gathered and considered in the improvement of the program prior to the region-wide implementation. This will make it more suitable to the local situation thereby making it more functional and responsive to the needs of the locality.

C. Full Implementation

After a trail of the program has been undertaken and having revised their respective programs, the program is expected to be fully implemented in the whole region. The corps of trainers is expected to hold similar training programs in the district, school and community levels. It is envisioned that they will be able to train teachers who are in direct contact with children and youth to enable them to implement the program at the grassroots. It is hoped that through the school, the various strategies and approaches will be utilized to attain the terminal goal of the program. The community will be reached to create strong-willed citizenry that will be able to resist and fight drug abuse.

III. Evaluation

To determine the impact of the program in preventing drug abuse in the regions involved, an assessment will be made. This will be in terms of the awareness, involvement and participation of the people in the community particularly the government to determine whether the problem of drug abuse in the community was reduced or not.