

Firelight Newsflash! 27 April 2009

Funding Resource: Terra Viva Grants

Terra Viva Grants develops and manages information about grants for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the world's developing countries. It provides information on where to search for grants made by foundations, NGOs, government organizations, and international organizations for development projects, research, green enterprises, technology dissemination, training, awareness-raising and related development activities.

For more information, see: <http://www.terravivagrants.org>

Call for Applications - Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa

Deadline: 30 April 30 2009

The Moremi Leadership Empowerment and Development Fellows Program is a one-year leadership development program designed to identify, develop and promote emerging young African Women leaders to attain and succeed in leadership in their community.

For more information, see: <http://www.moremiinitiative.org/milead-fellows-program.php>

Training for Transformation: A Handbook for Community Workers, Book 1

By Anne Hope & Salley Timmel, Mambo Press

Chapter 2: Survey for Generative Themes

Very often, certain themes or patterns will "jump out" at as listener as soon as they start doing a survey in the community. Once themes have been recognized, they can be considered deeply in order to produce a good understanding.

Let us take a common theme for rural women: "**shortage of money for family needs.**" The women may have been complaining about:

- no money for the children,
- no money for food,
- husbands not supporting the family,

- too much work,
- low production of crops,
- little money for their vegetables,
- no money for improved seeds or new tools,
- traditional expectations of women in the home,
- traditional values that women should not go to training workshops.

If you simply showed a picture of a woman going to a shop and not having enough money to buy what her family needs, the discussion would remain at the same place it always does. Critical analysis of themes and problems can help community members go a step further.

Every problem can be seen from 3 different aspects:

- 1) basic needs - economy
- 2) community decisions
- 3) values and beliefs

Let us follow the example of shortage of money for family needs.

Critical Analysis of Themes or Issues

1) Economics - To understand the problem a rural woman farmer is facing, we need some more information about the area in which she lives. The following questions could help our critical analysis of the problem, "shortage of money for family needs," above:

- What size is the average farm in the area?
- What size farm is needed for a decent living in the area?
- What are the food crops grown in the area?
- What are the cash crops grown in the area?
- How much of the food and cash crops can be grown per hectare per year, if rains are consistent?
- How much money can an average local farmer make?
- What are the major constraints for the local farmer against increasing production in that area?
- What agricultural services (advice, loans, fertilizer, improved seeds, etc.) can the local farmer expect from government?
- What are the problems of marketing?
- What are the other possible ways in which women earn money in that area?

2) Community Decision Making - Economic problems are usually linked to the process of **decision-making** at the local level. They are also related to development policies within the country. So the challenges to increased production can also be seen at the decision-making level. The following

questions could also help our critical analysis of the problem, "shortage of money for family needs," above:

- Who decides whether the area will receive services, such as dams, boreholes or irrigation?
- Who decides which farmers get services and advice from government officials?
- What services are available for all farmers?
- Who at present gets these services in that area?
- What is the procedure of getting small loans for local farmers?
- What are the regulations for such loans?
- What is the law (and practice) about women receiving loans?
- Who controls the marketing of crops in the area?
- Is there bribery or corruption in any of these services?
- Are there any farmers' unions in the area?
- How are the laws and rules implemented? By whom?

3) Values & Beliefs - Most economic questions are also affected by the **values**, either traditional or modern, held by a community. People often explain their situation assuming these values, and often this prevents them from breaking through to new actions. It is important to know and understand these values in working with communities. The following questions can help look at some of the values and beliefs that come from the problem of shortage of money for the family:

- How do the women explain their poverty?
- How do the women see their position in relation to their husbands in the family?
- On what grounds do the women assume that men have some rights and they do not?
- Is there a traditional belief about why poor crops happen?
- How do people explain that some farms have good production and other have poor production?
- How do modern values change the situation for women?

As you ask these questions, you begin to see how problems are linked together and how economics affects values and local/national politics. This process can help bring people from seeing problems as isolated, to seeing structures of society which control and dominate people's lives. Part of any discussion should help groups to decide which aspect of a problem is most important to deal with (economic, political or cultural), and what direction will lead to the most helpful discussion with possibilities of action.

Below are three examples of pictures and questions for the three different levels of critical analysis of the problem of "shortage of money for family needs."

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Pictures & Discussion Questions for the 3 levels of critical analysis (economic, political, cultural) of the problem of "shortage of money for family needs."

Economics



Adapted by Chris Hodzi from Kenya Literacy Program — 1976



In these two pictures, you see the women first selling their maize in the harvest season at low prices. Then in the planting season, buying the same maize at inflated prices.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you see happening in each picture?
- 2) Why is it happening?
- 3) Who is benefitting? Is it good to have a few people benefitting from the society?
- 4) Does this happen here? How does it happen?
- 5) What can we do to stop this exploitation? –OR– What can we do as a group to make sure we can store our own food?

Community Decision-Making

Thomas Nhokwara Gweru Literacy Program — 1982



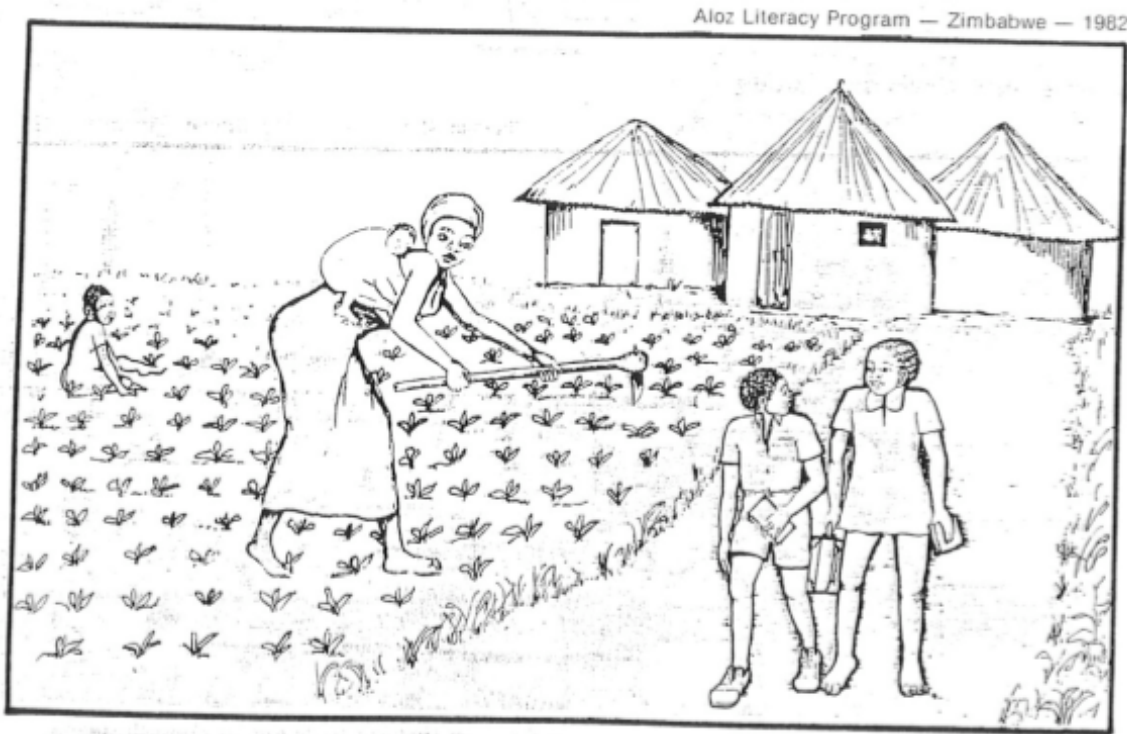
In this picture, a community is threshing together.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- 1) What is happening in this picture?
- 2) How did we as a community traditionally work together? What things did we do together?
- 3) Why did we work together?
- 4) Nowadays, do we work together cooperatively? Why or why not? How?
- 5) Is it important to have people organized to work together cooperatively? Why or why not?
- 6) What problems occur when we work together cooperatively?

- 7) What are the consequences of doing things individually? Doing things collectively?
- 8) If we wanted to do something together, like start of food store, what difficulties would be involved?

Values & Beliefs



In this picture, a woman works alone in the family field as the older children go off to school.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you see in this picture?
- 2) What is the woman thinking?
- 3) What work will she have to do today?
- 4) Where is her husband?
- 5) Why is she looking sad?
- 6) Is this a familiar situation?
- 7) How did we traditionally divide work?
- 8) What has changed?
- 9) Why has this changed?
- 10) What can women do together to lessen the load?
- 11) What could we do together as a group?

First International Conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children

28-30 September 2009, Nairobi

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is organizing the First International Conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children. The conference, Promoting Family-Based Care for Children in Africa, will be held on 28 - 30 September 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. The call for abstracts is open now until 31 July 2008. The objectives of the conference are:

- To improve knowledge on Family Based Care for Children through sharing information and experiences
- To enhance the legislative and policy environment to support Family Based Care for Children in Africa
- To improve skills of actors in the provision of Family Based Care for Children in Africa

For further information visit, <http://www.anppcan.org/node/45>

You may also contact:

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