

Partnership in Development Research (PDR)

An Approach to Development Projects

March 1999-September 2005

Final Report



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Foreword

Writing the foreword for the final report on “**Partnership in Development Research-Egypt**” of the Multi annual, Multidisciplinary Research Program (MMRP) is a time for reflection and thinking ahead.

The MMRP has been a land mark among the extensive and very active program of research undertaken by the Social Research Center (SRC).

From the initial phase of the activity (March 1999), SRC recognized that MMRP was not business as usual. I still recollect the first meeting with Mr. Hans Slot when he was exploring the institutional hosting of the program. The idea of a program of activities conceptualized by stakeholders with no strings attached by donors was an alien concept to SRC. The challenge of operationalizing the underlying principles of demand driven, locally owned research and translating them to concrete activities was an exciting new venture. Also, the set up of the institutional framework with a clear mandate of an independent board of distinguished Egyptians to set policies and strategies for implementation of the program was a new departure. Another departure was in the fact that for the first time SRC was serving as a facilitating agency administering grants for others and supporting researchers outside the Center to conduct their own research rather than engaging the Center staff in research programs.

These many features of an original program as well as the fact that the objective of the program fulfills a central part of the mission of SRC, focusing on promotion of a research agenda catering for development needs and emphasizing the linkages between research and its utilization, resulted in placing MMRP in the forefront of SRC program.

This final report speaks to the dedication of a number of key players who were instrumental in leading the varied components of this program. Mrs. Sohair Mehanna and her able assistant Mr. Mohamed Hassan have diligently navigated the every day activity of this program. Their efforts and dedication were the cornerstone of an inspiring program. The advisory board led by Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla, the steering committee led by Mr. Nabil Samuel and the many independent committees for research awards had ensured the credibility and the high reputation of this program. The researchers and the many stakeholders who spent their efforts and time to undertake policy relevant research have established the relevance and high visibility of this program.

Finally, our Dutch coordinators: Mr. Hans Slot, Mr. Peit de Lang, Mr. H.A. Steveninck and Mr. Ron Havinga who understood and adhered to the hands off thrust of this program secured its independence. To all of them and to everyone who contributed to MMRP, SRC is forever grateful.

The final report of MMRP is not an end to six years of hard work, it is simply a step within a long process that draws on the past and builds on it towards a more fulfilling future.

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& Director
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Acknowledgments

This is the final report for the program “Partnership in Development Research – Egypt”, one of the Multi annual, Multidisciplinary Research Programs funded by the Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the process that began in March 1999 and continued to Sept. 2005, I have received the guidance, support and encouragement of many people who contributed to this program in varying ways and at different times.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks Dr. Mulki El Sharmani for her help and effort in summarizing the project reports for the program, Ms. Mushira El Gezeri for translating from Arabic to English almost all the project research briefs, Mr. Mohamed Hassan Hosni, the coordinator’s assistant, for his diligent work and enthusiasm throughout the lifetime of the program, Ms. Dalia Wahdan, Ms. Mona Ghandar, MS. Amal El Mohandes, Ms. Shereen Shaheen and Ms. Sawsan El Sherief, research assistants, at the different stages of the program, and Ms. Fatma Abdel Karim for word processing this report and many others.

I wish to express my gratitude to the PDR researchers who supported the program implementation with enthusiasm and hard work. I am grateful to the Steering Committee and the Chairman, Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla, and members of the Advisory Board for their guidance and encouragement. Special thanks go to Dr. Hoda Rashad, Director of SRC, for her effective and continued support and guidance. Acknowledgements are also due to Dr. Laila El Zeini, Quality Advisor for her patience and persistence in reviewing project reports to produce quality material.

Funding is acknowledged with appreciation from the Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hague. I am also thankful to all the officials of the Research and Communication Division: Mr. Hans Slot, Mr. Peit de Lang, Mr. M.A. Steveninck and Mr. Ron Havinga for all their help at all stages of the program’s implementation.

Sohair Mehanna
PDR Coordinator

Partnership in Development Research (PDR)

An Approach to Development Projects

I. Background

The Multi-annual Multi-disciplinary Research Programs (MMRPs) were developed as a result of an initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation. This Program had been implemented in 9 countries, four in Africa (Egypt, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda), three in Asia (Kerala-India, Bangladesh, Vietnam) and two in Latin America (Nicaragua and Bolivia).

The objectives of the MMRP Program as stated in the Dutch document are (1) to promote demand-oriented research which is essential to local development targeting poverty alleviation, environment management and gender equality, (2) to stimulate the dissemination and use of research findings for policy formulation and implementation and (3) to promote relevant research capacity.

The MMRP promoted local ownership of each country's program based on knowledge of local needs and commitment to sustainable development. In addition, freedom and autonomy were given to each country to formulate, conceptualize and implement its own research agenda.

But despite this freedom all MMRPs shared a number of unifying links that were significant to the understanding of the knowledge produced and its utilization. These links were: demand orientation, location specificity, multidisciplinary, the involvement of stakeholders and capacity building.

To exchange experiences, tune methods and concepts and design collective exercises and activities, all MMRPs met every 18 months.

International conference and seminars have also added to the cumulation and exchange of knowledge and thus the visibility of the MMRPs, and the streamlining of demand led research.

The Egyptian Program "Partnership in Development Research" (PDR) began in March 1999 and continued for the last six years (Sept. 2005).

2. Program Organization

2.1 Introduction:

The Egyptian Program “Partnership in Development Research” originated in response to the initiative of the Netherlands Government Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS). The Social Research Center (SRC) was chosen to administer this program and to ensure that it reflects a number of key features¹. In order to be able to formalize this development program, the SRC invited a group of researchers, NGO's and professionals interested in development issues to discuss the topic within the framework of needs and practical development conditions in Egypt. A second activity was also proposed and carried out to ensure a broad base participation for the program. A “Users” workshop was held in Etsa, Minia, Upper Egypt for 3 days. The purpose of the workshop was to have an actual involvement of the grassroots and stakeholders in defining the program, articulating their concerns and suggesting mechanisms of implementation.

2.2 Program Objectives:

The ultimate goal of the PDR is to contribute to enhancing the living standards and well being of the marginalized population by informing development policies and intervention programs. The realization of this goal is through improving the quality, quantity and relevance of development research in Egypt and to enhance the dissemination and utilization of its results.

Specifically, the program outlined its objectives as follows:

1. Identify and promote a research agenda, which is responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities particularly in Upper Egypt.
2. Strengthen the linkages between those who conduct research and those who utilize its findings.
3. Improve the dissemination and accessibility of data and other information yielded through studies supported by this program and other programs relevant to the development needs of the country.
4. Support and expand the existing capacity of the researchers and institutions as well as NGOs who are in need for such an activity.

¹ Run by an Egyptian board reflecting main stakeholders, researchers, NGO's and government Research is demand driven, location specific, multidisciplinary with a focus on sustainable development and strengthening of research capacity.

5. Enhance the capacity of the users, especially NGO's and agencies of government, for identifying issues that require research attention and for utilizing the findings.
6. Support research, which addresses base line data, required for choosing the appropriate interventions as well as monitoring and evaluation.

2.3 The Organizational Set Up of the Program:

The Social Research Center accepted the responsibility of housing the program and acting as its Secretariat. It agreed to function as the intermediary organization for the development of the program and to provide the support facilities and services for the implementation process.

An Advisory Board was set up consisting of most of the people who were involved in the initial stage of the program. The Advisory Board, composed of 16 persons with varied backgrounds, were a mixture of academicians, NGOs and government representatives. The Board set the policies and strategies for the implementation of the program. (Appendix 1)

A Steering Committee was formed of 3 members; a subset of the Advisory Board. The members represent the partnership among the researchers, the NGOs and the government officials.

The Steering Committee approved and followed the implementation of the operational rules of different activities. It approved the composition of the different committees, reviewed the different components of the program and made interim decisions. (Appendix 1)

The Secretariat role was undertaken by the Social Research Center. It provided the technical assistance to the program as well as followed up on the technical decisions. The Secretariat was composed of the coordinator and assisted by administrative staff. The Social Research Center appointed the coordinator who attended all meetings of Advisory Board and Steering Committee.

3. Program Components

The Program functioned on the basis of a yearly plan of activities based on the Program document. The implementation process included the setting up of the different committees, which make up the organizational structure of the program. Rules, regulations and procedures were outlined, discussed and approved by the Advisory Board.

The by laws were developed and approved by the Advisory Board.

The different components of the program were outlined after the consultation with academics, NGOs and government representation.

The Program called for several activities, These activities included research, training and capacity building, visibility and main streaming of demand led approach, monitoring, evaluation and quality outputs, institutional support and the dissemination of research outputs.

3.1 Research Activities:

The research activities encompassed three types: open competition, solicited research and thematic research.

a. Open Research Competition

This type of research activity was based on a general competition, open to all NGOs, researchers and government agencies. It is demand oriented in terms of topics, geographical location and developmental local issues, It is held annually with scheduled dates.

The competition was advertised in national newspapers as well as announcements placed in universities and research institutes. Letters and e-mails were also sent out to Itsa workshop attendants as well as SRC mailing list with the relevant information i.e. the program's brochure, announcements and requirements. The advertisement emphasized four features:

1. Research should be in the area of local development.
2. Research should lead to application or action.
3. Teams would be composed of researchers and practioners whether NGOs or government.
4. Competition was open for all with special emphasis on junior researchers.

Research proposals received were subjected to an elaborate process of review based on criteria outlined. The proposals were first screened by the Secretariat. The criteria outlined included the priority concerns of the program as well as the quality in terms of scope, content and methodology. A second step in the screening process was the short listing of the eligible research proposals which was examined by professional multidisciplinary research committee under the different topics. A grading system was designed for the evaluation in which the following criteria were used. Relevance of the topic to development issues (20 points); quality of research (40 points); team composition (10 points); application or action plan (20 points) and a realistic budget (10 points). The expected outcome of the review was one of following categories, recommendation for approval, recommendation for revision and resubmission, and rejection with reasons. With

the establishment of this process, a clear and transparent system was created for the review of research proposals providing feedback and comments as well as guidance and capacity building. The following table shows the number of proposals received throughout the period of the program, those rejected, revised or approved.

Table (1)

	Feb. 2000 (1)	Dec. 2000 (2)	May 2001 (3)	Dec. 2001 (4)	May 2002 (5)	Dec. 2002 (6)	May 2003 (7)	Oct. 2003 (8)	Jan. 2004 (9)	Total
Total Received proposals	120	99	54	90	68	94	82	52	62	721
First Screening	64	41	9	52	32	45	45	26	37	351
Final Committee	56	58	45	38	36	49	37	26	25	370
Rejected	45	31	19	21	19	38	28	16	21	238
Resubmission	----	17	7	5	5	---	1	---	---	35
Expedite review	----	2	1	----	----	---	---	---	---	3
Approved proposals	11	8	18	12	12	11	8	10	4	94
Research Projects	9	3	11	6	7	5	6	9	3	59
Graduate Students	2	5	7	6	5	6	2	1	1	35

b. Solicited Research

Solicited research was introduced as a new window to enlarge the participation of the NGOs directly. The idea underlying this type of research was to evaluate interventions and the different programs carried out by the NGOs. Three topics were chosen for this activity. Street children, micro credit programs for women, and female illiteracy. These three themes have been the program's priority as it evolved and were targeted for policy directives. Details for each topic will be discussed in chapter 4 on topics and themes.

c. Thematic Research

The objective of this type of research was to respond to the cross cutting themes of development on the Marco level in order to formulate a constituency among policy makers for policy directives. Two topics have been the focus of this type of research. **The Middle Class and its Changing Role in Development and Poverty Issues.**

For both topics an annotated bibliography has been prepared as well as background papers. Announcements were made and an in-depth study of the **"Socio-Economic Strata and Development Awareness in Egypt"** was completed by Dr. Abdel Baset Abdel Motie and his team. Summary of paper can be accessed through the program website: <http://www.aucegypt.edu/pdr>

As for the poverty issues a background paper entitled **"Poverty in Egypt: Concepts, Realities and Research Agenda"** was completed by Dr. Saad Nagi (see website).

When announcing the theme for further research, the program felt that there will be duplication of research efforts since the "Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey" in Cairo announced its theme on poverty. Research grants were announced and granted. Instead the PDR given its extension proposed a new initiative. **"Social Agents and Local Development in Fayoum Governorate"**.

The new initiative called for an integrated plan of action of applied research to be introduced in one of Upper Egypt's governorates having a low human development index. The aim of this new plan was to support young researchers to build on local knowledge in a specified governorate, to identify constraints in the adopted development strategies and interventions. The proposed plan aimed to "integrate the original thinking of the participants, the benefits of the field research and the methodological and policy research expertise of the Social Research Center's staff to draft a program of action that works for the people and breaks through the development impasse from which parts of the governorate are suffering".

Fayoum governorate was identified for the proposed activities, as the governorate rates quite low (0.603) on the human development indices (Human Development Indices, 2004).

Fayoum also suffers from pockets of dire development needs according to the research results obtained by the Program's researchers and verified by the Human Development Report – Fayoum Governorate, 2003.

These needs are exemplified in the high illiteracy rate (34%) of the total population 15 years and above. 66.2% is the illiteracy rate for women.

There is a low rate of the ability to read and write for the population 15 years and above in general. It is 47.7% on the governorate level. The enrollment rate of all educational levels (basic preparatory and secondary) is 65.4% but it varies among the different cities and rural areas.

Fayoum governorate is also the highest governorate in child labor figures on the national level forming 44.3% of children at the age group of 6-14 years. (Human Development Report, 2004).

To operationalize the new plan, an announcement was put forth to recruit young local researchers, NGO personnel and local officials from Fayoum Governorate. Applicants were requested to write a brief concept paper in the Arabic or English language on a developmental problem faced in Fayoum Governorate. A selection committee was formed and 18 candidates were chosen out of the 40 applicants

who applied. Interviews were conducted with all candidates. One month training program was set up on the methodological and research issues. Field work was conducted with close supervision and monitoring by the Secretariat. Areas of concern were literacy programs for women and men, child labor, empowerment of women, agricultural practices and health concerns.

Another thematic orientation recognized the importance of the **Business Sector in Economic Development**. This orientation supported the quest of the Ministry of Investment to undertake policy reforms to improve the investment climate in Egypt. Building on two surveys supported by the World Bank and implemented by the Social Research Center on: “**Investment Climate Assessment**” and “**Infrastructure and Investment**”, a number of commissioned papers dealing with **Investment Climate** were supported by the program. The following are the titles

“Labor Force Security and Well Being”. which aimed to present empirical evidence of the relation between the business sector and the security and well being of the labor force, providing recommendations to policy makers.

“Preliminary Engendered Analysis of Egypt’s Investment Climate Assessment”. An analysis of a data set.

“The Competitiveness of Manufacturing Enterprises”, aimed to examine the competitiveness of the Sector through studying problems facing enterprises with respect to finance, taxes, labor infrastructure, land, laws, and regulations in an attempt to provide adequate policy suggestions in the short and long term priorities.

“Infrastructure and Investment Climate” was to define the role of infrastructure in supporting the business climate for these enterprises and to analyze the efficiency of the performance of the selected enterprises in the sample as well as to discuss the impediments in infrastructure and suggest solution for the enhancement of investment environment in Egypt.

“Taxes Reform in Egypt”, evaluated the impact of taxes on the investment climate in Egypt to show how taxes are considered a constraint on the running and expending of business. It also analyzed the informal methods adopted by different types of firms to lessen the burden of taxes and to evaluate the recent tax reform as an instrument to improve the investment climate in Egypt and suggest recommendations for future reform.

Another thematic area covered was, “**Child Protection in Egypt**”. The project was to assemble and review international experiences and initiatives for practioners and policy makers in the field of child protection. To assemble an annotated bibliography on violence against children in Egypt.

3.2 Training and Capacity Building

A second component of the program was its training activities. Capacity building and training were to improve the ability and skills of researchers, NGO activists and local people to carry out the research and have the ability to define and to solve their own problems and research questions. Competence building by formal training, learning by doing, networking and tutoring by senior experienced researchers were the different ways used. Scholarships were also provided to MA and Ph.D. students. The program has institutionalized training sessions in several areas: proposal writing, research methods courses, both qualitative and quantitative, data management, data analysis, report writing, presentation of results, internet use and bibliography citations. The Program streamlined the different components of training to match the different stages of the research so as to bring about the best results. In addition, research background paper, manuals and UN reports were provided to the researchers. The library of the SRC as well as that of the American University were also made accessible to the program's participants, free of charge.

The Program also linked its training activities with the different training activities operated by the Social Research Center. Two training programs are undertaken annually by the SRC: "The Research Methods for Policy Formulation and Evaluation" and "Reproductive Health in Arab Countries: From Science to Action. Scholarships were provided by the SRC for the Program.

These training sessions were considered by the trainees as a valuable contribution of the PDR Program for it has supported young researchers in academic institutions. It has created a new space for the discussion of research ideas and encouraged collaboration among the different researchers and institutions. As one researcher among the grantees put it "***I feel lucky that my proposal was first turned down because this gave me an opportunity to attend the training program which was invaluable to me, not only in writing a successful proposal, but in carrying out the research itself.***"

Another trainee commenting on the SPSS training said "***The trainer was excellent, able to translate his practical experiences into an easy and clear way to understand the logistics and the techniques to be used in data analyses.***"

Multidisciplinary team work, was an important aspect, explained and understood by interviewers studying the problems of development. Teams were formed of senior and junior researchers. Stakeholders participation was also encouraged at various stages of the research so as to be sure that the knowledge generated was accessible to them, shaped by their needs and interventions. Since the quality of the training provided was one of the Program's major concerns, we were always keen on ensuring that the training provided met the satisfaction of the participants.

Evaluation sheets were distributed to the participants for each training course, where all recommendations provided by the participants were taken into account and transformed into action in subsequent training courses.

3.3 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Control

The monitoring process and the quality management was an ongoing process. Different modalities were used at different stages. It started with the review of proposals by the Secretariat. There was a concentrated effort undertaken by the Secretariat to have each chosen topic be placed in the context of the social milieu in which the socio-economic elements and the applicability component produced satisfied the local social dimension.

The scientific dimension was also stressed by the review committee when examining the proposals. Once the projects were accepted in the program, the secretariat and an expert group gave technical help and advice through out the lifetime of the project.

In the process of implementation the Secretariat held meetings with the principal investigators and research teams at periodic intervals. These meetings were important in that they facilitated interaction among the members of the group by sharing their experiences and insights.

During these meetings, researchers were requested to present the progress of their projects, the problems encountered during the course of implementation and the ways these problems were resolved.

In addition to these meetings there were written progress reports submitted by the researchers quarterly. These reports were reviewed by the quality manager and if satisfactory, the installment of the fund was released. The program Secretariat also made field visits to the different locations of the individual project.

To ensure the quality and a smooth completion of the project, the Secretariat held a midterm review for the different projects. A committee was formed composed of three members, one representing the Advisory Board, and external member knowledgeable of the topic discussed, the quality advisor, in addition to the Secretariat. In this review, the research team gave a presentation of the project, the objectives, hypothesis, methodology and the preliminary results.

The purpose of the midterm was to provide technical advice for the researchers who need it before completion. Another reason for holding these reviews was to have the Advisory Board members in close contact with the researchers and make the researchers feel that they are part of a larger group. This venue also helped in advertising the program to the outside world.

As one evaluator described it ***“a midterm evaluation session which I attended, three presentations were delivered. The session was well attended, with the presence of a number of the program participants in addition to several of SRC staff members. The presentations were clear and well organized. The informal and friendly atmosphere of the session encouraged most of the group to take part, and was conducive to interesting exchanges and discussions, audience reactions were what it should be in a mid-term evaluation: making suggestions for changes, highlighting important aspects of the presented research, pointing out issues for comparison and providing ideas for follow up”.***

Another reviewer commenting on the effect of the training and the multidisciplinary of the evaluators said, ***“The reviewers' diverse academic and professional backgrounds provided a chance for an interdisciplinary perspective on the research reports. Also the level of presentation and research material were of good quality which proves the effectiveness of the programs' training component through out the undertaking of the research. In addition, inviting a number of new recipients of the research grants to attend was a good practice that will undoubtedly help them in developing their research perspective and undertaking. The two presentations dealt in fact with two important areas of development and their research findings seem to have a potential for policy implications. I strongly recommend that this experience be provided for all beneficiaries of the program”.***

3.4 Setting Up Institutional Support

The Program (PDR) provided support in order to increase institutional research capacity and maximize the use of research results. This included grants to support and improve infrastructure of the different organizations working with the program.

Through out the Program duration, two NGOs, Hope Village Society and The Land Center for Human Rights were supported. Hope Village Society is a non profit NGO which is privately funded by businessmen and women. It was established in 1988 to provide shelters and training centers for parentless and homeless street children. The Land Center is a non profit organization established in 1996 and is considered the first organization in the field of human rights. The Land Center is concerned with issues relating to the country side such as agriculture, environment, health, and labor that affect the rural population especially children and women.

The institutional support activities provided by PDR for those NGOs consisted of training their researchers in different methodologies and supporting their research activities. Three research projects were funded by PDR for Hope Village Society and two projects for the Land Center.

Training scholarships for policy formulation and evaluation were provided by the Social Research Center for the directors of the two NGOs. Principal investigators

of all five projects were invited to the training sessions and field visits undertaken by the Secretariat to provide them with hands on observation for monitoring.

3.5 Dissemination of Research Results

Dissemination activities started with the midterm reviews for the awardees. The program was publicized as well as the topics to be discussed. Emphasis on the inclusion of the stakeholders was stressed as well as PRA methods and discussions.

Another approach used by the PDR program was the seminars and workshops held to disseminate research findings according to the topics researched. Several example of this approach could be cited "The Annual Research Conference organized by AUC, April 2003, The 50th Anniversary of the Social Research Center where one section of the SRC exhibition was prepared for the PDR activities. Posters and materials from different projects were put on display as well a short video film showed. Another occasion was the meeting held at the National Planning Institute, Feb.13, 2002 where Dr. Magdi gave his paper on the "Role of the Free zone in Attracting Foreign Investments". The meeting was attended by the Minister of Planning.

Another form of dissemination is through publications. Research briefs are published by the program in both the English and Arabic languages. Distribution is quite comprehensive.

Individual researchers and principal investigators have also disseminated their research results both locally and in international conferences. Some papers have been published in refereed journals.

The Web Site for the Program has also been updated with all the materials concerning the dissemination.

4. Summary of Research Awards

4.1 Topics Investigated

During the short life span of the program (6 years) numerous research projects have been completed. Research results have started to have an effect on the society. Based on the unifying links of demand orientation, location specificity multidisciplinary, involvement of stakeholders and capacity building, the following analyses will try to highlight these different aspects in regard to the projects completed. The different themes covered by the researchers are the following: Women and development, rural development, childhood issues, health issues and social issues.

The following is a summary of the completed projects under each theme with a brief introduction of the situation in Egypt and a general discussion at the end.

a. Women and Development

Development is a multi-layered process that aims at achieving the welfare of populations and enhancing the quality of their lives. This process entails among other things developing the skills and abilities of individuals and institutions, and overcoming the obstacles that hinder both from becoming active participants in this process. Such obstacles are often related to both material and non-material factors. The first include shortage of resources or their misuse because of lack of knowledge and innovative technology that enhance effective and environmentally sound use of resources. The non-material factors, on the other hand, are connected to flawed value systems that among other things undermine the roles that particular groups in the society (e.g. women) play in development or fail to promote effective coordination between parties involved in development programs.

In Egypt, interest and participation in development efforts have been the concern of the government, NGOs, researchers, and local communities for the past several decades. The involvement of women in these efforts is a reality that can be ascertained in the daily lives of people. Women constitute half the population. They form a third of the labor force in agriculture. They work in the informal as well as in the public sectors in urban areas. In addition, women carry most of the burden of non-market labor that is essential for the survival and welfare of families such as doing childcare and providing nutrition to household members. Despite the undeniable significance of the roles that women play in development, there are many problems that diminish their effectiveness. The most serious of these problems include women's inadequate access to institutional support that aims at developing their education and professional skills, and to social and economic services that are necessary for the improvement of their conditions within the family and at work. An equally serious challenge that lessens the effectiveness of the participation of Egyptian women in development is gender-based value systems that marginalize the roles of women whether in the family or in the labor market. Lastly, another central aspect of the issue of development and women in Egypt is whether or not women benefit from development programs, how they do so, and what factors lead to either. These points are related to both the material and non-material conditions that shape different aspects of women's lives in labor, education, health, and domestic life. The studies summarized in this section address the issue of women and development from different angles. They examine how women participate in development and what factors facilitate or inhibit their participation. For example, several of the studies examine different aspects of the participation of Egyptian women in agricultural labor, the problems they encounter, and what can be done to improve both the roles of women and their benefits in this field. The other studies investigate different social and economic problems that women in urban and rural areas encounter and which diminish their welfare and productivity. Some of the problems that are highlighted in these studies are women's experiences of poverty, the burden of supporting families solely on

income generated from irregular employment, inadequate knowledge of and access to social and health services, and domestic violence. In what follows, a brief summary of the purpose and the findings of each study will be presented.

In the study, **The Economic Role of Rural Women in Agriculture**, Drs. Amany Ali Mohamed and Mohamed Abdel Nabi Dessouki, examined the economic roles of rural women in agricultural work (both animal and plant production), and the factors that influence their effective participation in these areas, and 2) determine the level of awareness of rural women of health and environmental aspects. The study was conducted in the governorates of Sohag and Assiut in Upper Egypt. The researchers found that the majority of the female respondents were married and illiterate. They participated in agricultural activities in both animal and plant production. The number of hours women put into agricultural work was low because of lack of agricultural guidance and customs that discouraged women's work. Most of the respondents in this study did not exhibit health awareness in their dealing with empty cans of pesticides, ashes, animal waste, and dead poultry. Women played an important but an indirect role in decision-making. In decisions about agricultural work, men predominately made decisions about the selection of crops, the purchase of production necessities, and the buying and selling of crops. However, women took joint decisions with men in some agricultural activities such as the buying and selling of equipment because these activities generated income for the family. Women also participated in making decisions about the education and marriage of children. The researchers concluded that the participation of women in agricultural societies was very limited and that programs for their environmental awareness needed to be developed.

Further research on female farmers portrayed by Mr. Hisham Fuad in his study on:

The Situation of Egyptian Women Farmers in Rural Areas since the Enforcement of Law 96 of 1992.

Before 1992, Egyptian farmers had occupancy or credit cards with which they received loans using their agricultural crops as collateral. However, with the application of Law 96 of 1992, the use of these cards was restricted to land owners. The purposes of this study were to: 1) identify the volume of changes that occurred in the lives of women farmers in the rural areas, 2) determine the obstacles that face them, and 3) suggest ways to solve their problems and enable them to obtain land and improve the way they manage it. The study was conducted in two villages in Upper and Lower Egypt. The researcher found that after the implementation of Law 96, the living conditions of the farmers in the sampled villages worsened. Villagers who rented the land they farmed felt insecure and were unable to access affordable agricultural equipment and chemicals necessary for their farming. Women's occupancy of land increased after the law. However, fewer women managed their own land than those who ran land through their

children or husbands. Female respondents reported that their agricultural activities were initiated either by the death of the husband, his inability to work, or divorce. The women also reported that their communities did not respect working women and felt they were underestimated as land owners or renters. They also faced conflicts within their families because they had not asked male relatives to run their lands. The women encountered problems with local government institutions that dispensed bank loans, and in some cases women were threatened with imprisonment for failing to pay back loans that the women claim they never received. The researcher concluded that there was a need to implement Article 5 of Law 96 of 1992, which offered indemnities to villagers by giving them alternative pieces of land. The researcher also suggested providing rural women with reclamation land so that they would have more opportunities to run their own agricultural activities.

In the study **Rural Women's Environmental Behavior and Possibility of Achieving Sustainable Development**, Dr. Khairy Abul Seoud and Dr. Ahlam Anis Armanious show that the proper management of environmental resources on the part of rural women lead to their sustainability. Yet the lack of awareness on how to deal with these resources and the ignorance about the negative impacts of misuse of resources eventually lead to pollution and constant deterioration of the environment. The aim of this study was to raise the awareness of rural women in five villages in Beni Suif in Upper Egypt. To do so, the researchers identified the environmental knowledge, practices, and needs of the women in these villages. The researchers also designed and implemented a training program in the selected study areas with the collaboration of the Coptic Egyptian Society for Services and Training. Data was collected from 201 women in the selected five villages using questionnaires and focus group discussions. The findings of the study showed that: The illiteracy rate among the women reached 59.6%. The majority of the women in the sample were married and housewives. A third of the women worked in agriculture. Most of the women who worked in agriculture engaged in harvesting, storing, and packaging activities. Women also engaged in buying animals, preparing a place for them, cleaning and buying chicken, baking bread and pastries. The most common flawed environmental practices among the women were: over-irrigating land, not cleaning waterways and water waste areas, washing and re-using pesticide cans, storing and burning agricultural waste on house roofs, and disposing of house garbage and dead animals through unhealthy venues. The women's sources of environmental knowledge were mostly: TV, radio, friends, and last newspapers and magazines. Lastly, the findings indicated that there was no difference in the level of environmental knowledge among different age groups. The average level of environmental knowledge was noted to be higher among women who worked for others in return for wages and among married women. The last observation could be explained as a result of married women making use of their husbands' more superior knowledge. As part of the training program designed by the research team, male and female promoters (from the local communities) were trained. The promoters and CEOSS staff members were then

trained to hold and organize meetings to raise the environmental awareness of women.

On the same theme Dr. Samira Seif Shehata and Dr. Abdel Shafi Azzam research the **Use of House and Agricultural Waste in Beni Suif Governorate**, The focus of this study was to investigate the ways in which rural women used agricultural and house waste, and whether or not they transformed them into economically viable products that increased the income of the family. The study was conducted in five villages in the governorate of Beni Suif; upper Egypt.

questionnaires were used in the collection of data. The researchers found that the majority of the women (69%) had medium or high information level of information on how to make use of house and agricultural use. Also, the majority of the women made good use of agricultural and house waste. While the use of waste did not generate any profit for the women, it was used as animal fodder, food for poultry, or as organic fertilizers. Level of education of the women, their land occupancy, and participation in animal production had an effect on how well women made use of waste materials. The researchers recommended running training programs to develop the skills of rural women and to encourage them to set up small businesses in which they could make economic use of their agricultural waste.

Developing Simple Technology for Rural Women's Projects: The Case of Kafr El Sheikh Governorate, by Dr. Ibrahim Rihan.

Within the framework of a project for the training of rural women in development, the General Department for Women Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs provides easy term loans to rural women so that they could obtain high quality products that generate income and improve the socioeconomic status of these women. The goals of this study were to: 1) identify the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the female beneficiaries of the rural women projects in development and population during 1996-2000, 2) identify the most popular projects in the local rural units in Kafr El Sheikh Governorate, 3) list the local environmental resources that were targeted by the project for the training of rural women in development, and 4) determine the technological gap for the projects most applied by rural women. The study was conducted in four units in Kafr El Sheikh where there was a high level of project availability. The researcher found that the two main projects that the sampled women participated in were cows and livestock and goat and sheep. Most of these women were married and illiterate. The majority carried out the project work on their own. Women chose either kind of projects because they had experience in similar work and because they thought the project would generate income. The women used some of the products of these projects (e.g. milk and butter) for family consumption, and sold some of it in local markets. The women reported having difficulty with marketing and generating a profit because of high prices of animal fodder, animal diseases, and exploitation of local merchants who forced them to sell their products at a low price.

The Political Awareness of the Rural Working Women, by Hossam Bondog.

The aim of this study was to identify the causes of rural women's lack of political roles. The study was conducted in a village in Gharbia Governorate on a sample of 76 working rural women. The researcher made use of in-depth interviews and participatory observation in the collection of data. The findings of the study showed that: The respondents did not participate in any aspect of the local or national political process: They did not run for public office because they reported that it was costly. Also, they did not join political parties, or attend party conventions and public seminars. The respondents gave different reasons for their lack of participation in these activities such as lack of time, lack of knowledge about the activities, and fear. Men, on the other hand, were more engaged politically. The results of the study also showed that the employment of women helped them make decisions, voice their opinions, and become involved in different public activities. The researcher concluded that the political participation of rural women is mostly hindered by their lack of time, political awareness, and the overall national atmosphere of limited public participation in the political process.

The Effect of Privatization Programs on the Social Status of Egyptian Working Women, by Hend Fouad.

The privatization of companies in Egypt has been accompanied by a decline in women's employment opportunities compared to those for men. The focus of this study was to examine the impact of privatization policies on job opportunities for women and the conditions of working women in the privatized sector. A questionnaire was used to collect field data from 86 women working in an electronics company that was privatized in 1996. In-depth interviews were also conducted with ten of these women. General statistical data was also collected from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and records of privatized companies. The findings of the study showed that: The respondents had varied and contradictory perceptions of the concept of privatization. For example, some of the respondents perceived privation as transferring part of the ownership and management of the public sector establishments to the private sector. Other respondents explained privatization as transfer of property of economic activities to the private sector. Privatization programs had serious impacts on the respondents. For example, some of them were laid off and others were forced into early retirement. Other negative results of privatization were small wages, loss of bonuses and profits, and lack of employment opportunities. The respondents reported that they had fewer employment opportunities because private sector businesses preferred to

hire male workers so that they would not have to meet the legal and social requirements that go with hiring female workers. This belief was corroborated by the increase in the number of male workforce after privatization program was implemented in the company where the study took place. Also the results of the study showed that the respondents were unable to overcome these forms of discrimination because the new investment laws weakened the role of labor unions and gave employers less checked power to fire workers.

Doctors' and Women's Early Detection of Breast Cancer in Assiut University, by Dr. Ghada Salah El Din Tawfik.

Breast cancer is one of the most serious health problems that cause the death of women in Egypt and the world. The overall objective of this study was to analyze the attitudes of women working at Assiut University and those of doctors and breast cancer patients at Assiut University Hospital towards the use of mammogram x-rays in early detection of breast cancer. The specific aims of the research were to: 1) examine the actual uses of the mammogram by doctors and nurses, 2) determine the pattern of patients who were diagnosed with breast cancer and their family history, 3) highlight the level of awareness of early detection methods among women working at the university, and 4) identify the shortcomings in the support systems responsible for addressing the social and psychological needs of breast cancer patients. Three groups were sampled: 421 women working at the Assiut University Hospital, 99 male and female doctors who worked in the general surgery, internal medicine, and gynecology sections in the hospital, and 320 breast cancer patients who were receiving their treatment at the hospital. Interviews and questionnaires were used in the collection of the data.

The researchers found that: First, while the women who were working at Assiut University demonstrated a high level of awareness of breast cancer and the usefulness of early detection methods, only a third received different kinds of examination (e.g. self-or clinical examination, or mammograms). Some of the respondents reported that they were discouraged from doing mammograms because of their fear of cancer, their concern that they may be exposed to harmful x-rays during the examination, and the costs of the procedure. Second, the doctors at Assiut University Hospital reported that there was no wide scale use of clinical examination and mammograms because of the lack of time, the refusal of patients, shortage of necessary equipment, and poor coordination between different units in the hospital. Third, many of the sampled patients reported that they had delayed their visit to the doctor because of lack of awareness of the seriousness of their health

condition, limited financial means, and absence of pain at the beginning. Also, some of the women reported that they did not receive adequate support and care from their husbands and children. The researcher concluded that there was a need to establish a health care system that would enable female employees and workers at Assiut University to receive a free and regular mammogram examination. Also, the researcher recommended running counseling programs that would help families of breast cancer patients become better informed of the kinds of support and care that the latter need.

The Assessment of the Needs of Widows: A Case Study of North Cairo Social Units, by Mr. Khaled Fawzi Safieddin.

Many widows in Egypt are marginalized and do not have any kind of social protection. Moreover, there is little research on the conditions and needs of widows, which affects negatively the policies and programs in place to address their needs and problems. The goals of this study are: 1) identify the economic, social, health and educational needs of widows, 2) prioritize the needs of the widows, 3) identify the problems that hinder the fulfillment of their needs, and 4) make recommendations to address these needs. A sample survey was conducted on 360 widows who benefited from the social units in the Cairo North Zone as well as 45 directors of the Social Affairs Departments in the zone. The researcher found that there was a consensus among the widows and the directors of social affairs departments on the needs of the former and the obstacles that hindered their fulfillment. Both groups agreed that the needs of the widows could be ranked as follows: economic, psychological, health, social, and finally educational. The main obstacles that hindered the fulfillment of the needs of the widows were: 1) inadequate social security law that did not take into account the social conditions of widows and the shortage of their productive skills, 2) lack of financial incentives that would encourage the widows to pursue educational opportunities, and 3) lack of counseling programs for widows to address their psychological problems. The researcher recommended the establishment of projects that would enable widows to engage in income-generating activities and training programs that teach widows how to manage their family budget.

Females Heading Households: The Role of Development Programs, by Ms. Nevine Ebeid.

The goals of this study were to: 1) examine the survival strategies of female heads of households in rural areas, 2) determine why some women became

heads of their households and what kinds of rights they acquired because of this status, 3) examine the marginal activities that such women engaged in such as becoming construction laborers, domestic workers, or doing other similar tasks, and 4) highlight the developmental programs that targeted these women and determine to what extent they were effective. The study was conducted in the two governorates of Menya and Sohag in Upper Egypt. All the sampled women were heads of their households. Some of the women were beneficiaries of loan programs, and some were not. The major findings of the study were as follows: Rural women became heads of their households in two situations: when their husbands abandoned them or deceased. Many of the women engaged in seasonal work. In addition to their irregular work, the women carried out a lot of housework and childcare in their households. The majority of the sampled women benefited from loan programs. However, most of the women who had been beneficiaries of such programs for three years or more reported that they were still not financially independent. Also the women used the loans to run the same kinds of projects (poultry, dried food, and food supply projects) because they lacked experience in other kind of enterprises. Therefore, because the market was oversupplied with these products, the women did not generate much income. The researcher concluded that to ensure the effectiveness of loan projects, their purposes should be clearly defined. Also, the researcher suggested that the procedure and regulations for similar development projects should be unified under one umbrella.

The Role of NGOs in Empowering Female Heads of Households to Obtain Social Services in Slum Areas, by Dr. Rashad Latif.

The goal of this study was to examine the role of NGOs in empowering female heads of households to seek and obtain health, economic, and educational services in slum areas. The study surveyed 300 female heads of households and 93 members of the board of 10 NGOs in Al Asaal and Ezbet Girguis areas. Two kinds of questionnaires were administered to the members of the NGOs and the sampled women respectively.

The researcher found that: First, the socioeconomic conditions of the women were very dire. The majority of the sample women were illiterate and unemployed. Almost half of the women were widows, and most of the living husbands were unemployed. The majority of the women could not engage in income-generating activities because of lack of capital, poor economic conditions, and shortage of time.

Second, the main services that local NGOs offered to female headed families were financial assistance and easy term loans. The majority of the NGOs did not offer health or educational services. In general, the overall

services of NGOs were inadequate and not well-used. There was a prevalent lack of awareness among most of the families of these services and how to access them.

Supporting the Role of Local Non-Governmental Organizations in Eradicating Illiteracy among Poor Women in Urban Squatter Areas

by Dr. Madiha Mostafa Fathy.

The aims of this study were to: 1) examine and highlight the role of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in helping women in urban squatter areas access their right to education and develop skills that would enable them to improve their lives, and 2) identify the obstacles to these efforts. The study was conducted in the area of Ezbat Kheir Allah in Shubra. Data was collected from 500 female residents and 100 staff members of local NGOs that work in the area. The main findings of the study showed that the NGOs did a variety of activities to enhance the education of the female residents. Twenty percent of the NGOs paid the school fees for female students in need; 56% of the NGOs provided free school supplies to girls and helped families issue birth certificates for their new born female babies. Also 54% percent of the NGOs gave financial assistance to some of the families whose daughters were enrolled in school and were not working. Some of the NGOs worked on raising the awareness of the parents of government laws that would enable their daughters to access free education. Also 12% of the NGOs ran literacy classes for women and girls, while 31% of the organizations mobilized the efforts of local communities to open and run such classes. The main problems that these organizations faced in their efforts were: inadequate funding, lack of the incentives that would encourage girls to enroll in literacy classes, the prevalence of marriage at an early age among the women, and poor coordination between the NGOs working in the area.

Human Deprivation in Poor Urban Families that are Supported by Women Working in the Informal Sector: An Ethnographic Model in Al Sharabia District by Dr. Salwa Gharib Gado and Dr. Nazly Al Sherbini.

The aims of this study were to: 1) capture the daily life of families supported by women, 2) describe the different aspects of deprivation that these families suffer, 3) analyze the relation between the marital status of the female heads of these families and the kind of work they did, and the extent to which they fulfilled the needs of their families, 4) identify how female heads of families thought of their daily realities, and 5) analyze the different aspects of their human deprivation and the needs of the sampled families. Using an

ethnographic method, the researcher collected data from a sample of 12 female heads of households who were chosen from two main parts of the Al Sharabia District. The researchers found that the sampled women held irregular and dead-end jobs in the service sector. The respondents and their families did not eat adequate nutritional meals. Despite the availability of government clinics in the district, most of the families did not use them because of their inability to pay the compulsory entrance fee. Most of the children in these families were not enrolled in schools. And lastly the respondents reported that the negligence and incompetence of local government was an important factor that led to their present living conditions. The researcher concluded that female heads of urban poor families constituted a marginalized group that was deprived from the basic components of an adequate life.

The Phenomenon of Violence against Wives in the Egyptian Society: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Social Strata by Ms. Azza Hamed Zayan Ghanem.

The goals of this study were: 1) identify the patterns of violence against wives in rural and urban areas, 2) determine the factors that led to violence against wives, and 3) determine the relation between violence against wives and the security of different social strata in rural and urban areas. The study was conducted in the Darasa urban area in Cairo and the Noros rural area in Fayoum. A sample of 200 women, who were victims of domestic violence, was chosen equally from both governorates. For the purposes of this study, domestic violence was defined as physical (e.g. an assault by hand or with the use of a sharp object, or attempted murder of the wife), and emotional (e.g. verbal abuse, insults, negligence and indifference, scolding, forbidding the wife from going to work, refusal to provide financial support to the wife and family, abandonment, and adultery).

The main findings of this study were: Husbands used a variety of ways to resolve their marital problems, some of which were peaceful and some violent. The most violent of these ways was beating the wife, which was mostly caused by low family income. The lower the level of education of the wife, the higher was the rate of her being physically assaulted by her husband. The same was true of the relation between the level of education of the husbands and their tendency to physically assault their wives: the higher the level of education of the husband, the lower was the rate of his use of physical violence against his wife. There was also a correlation between some of the ways the marriages of the women were arranged and the occurrence of domestic violence. The highest number of battered wives was among those whose marriages were arranged through a matchmaker.

In addition, the percentage of battered wives who lived with their in-laws was also relatively high (53.3% and 40% in the sampled rural and urban areas respectively). The majority of the sampled women suffered from both physical and emotional violence during their childhood. In most of these cases, fathers committed violence against their daughters. Also 66% of the sampled families in the rural areas were also treating their male and female children differently, while the percentage in the urban area was 28%. Examples of unequal treatment were in uneven access to education, family's perception of girls as bringing shame to them and of boys as being more important. A large percentage of the women (41.2%) suffered from beating 22 times, whereas 25% were continually beaten by their spouses. Housewives and women married to unemployed men constituted the highest percentage of women who were victims of continual domestic violence.

The most common form of emotional violence against wives was verbal insults in front of others. Housewives constituted the group of women who suffered most from verbal abuse, suspension of financial support on the part of the husband, and threats. Illiterate wives and those who were employed in menial jobs were also more likely to suffer from emotional forms of violence. As a result of their being victims of domestic violence, the sampled women reported feeling insecure, fearful, and resentful of their husbands. Women who aged less than 20 years were more likely to physically resist the assaults of their husbands. Divorce was rarely resorted to as a solution to domestic violence problems. This is because among both rural and urban women, there was a common perception that divorced women were blamed for the failure of their marriages. Also a large percentage of the sampled women explained their decision not to file complaints against their husbands was part of their efforts not to make their marital problems worse.

Community-based Advocacy to Identify and to Reduce Domestic Violence against Females in an Upper-Egyptian Village by Dr. Mervat El Refei and Dr. Shahinaz Mekheimer.

The objective of this study was to strengthen the role of community-based advocates (NGOs) and health care providers in identifying and managing the cases of violence against women. To achieve this goal, the researchers :1) assessed the magnitude and the causes of violence against women in a rural Egyptian village, 2) identified the perceptions of women , men, NGO representatives, and health-care providers regarding violence (e.g. its causes, and suggested solutions), 3) trained NGO leaders and community health care workers in doing advocacy and providing counseling to victims of domestic violence, and 4) trained health care providers to identify and manage domestic violence with a better understanding of its causes and

effects within its specific cultural context. The study was conducted in the Giza governorate in Upper Egypt because of its known high rate of domestic violence. Using cluster sampling techniques, 373 married women were randomly chosen from 80 households in the 4 main zones in the village of El Afta in the District of El-Ayat in Giza. The findings of the study were as follows: The majority of the women were physically abused by their husbands and in some cases this abuse was on a continual basis. In some of the cases, the abused wives suffered serious physical inflictions such as black eye, broken bones and disability, and bruises and bleeding. The main reasons that the women gave for physical abuse were: husband's behavior, followed by problems with in-laws, and finally financial matters. Many of the abused wives exhibited an attitude of self-blame, shame, and guilt, while the husbands felt justified in their actions. Wife-beating occurred more in the cases when parents discriminated between their children on the basis of gender and when men had complete economic and decision-making power in the household. Most of the women did not seek help and did not tell anyone about their problem. Women who were in consanguineous marriages tended to tell their families of the problem and consequently got support from their relatives. Women also reported being victims of emotional abuse that included threats of divorce, expulsion from the house, suspension of financial support, accusations of infidelity, and being insulted in front of others. Women's sense of humiliation was shaped by their perceptions of the rights of their husbands. Therefore humiliation increased with the belief that certain acts were not within the rights of a husband. Acts such as preventing a wife from visiting her family or taking her money was perceived by more than half the women as being within the rights of the husband. This demonstrated that many women believed that their husbands had rightful control over their familial relations and financial matters.

The researchers concluded that the occurrence of physical and emotional forms of domestic violence was enhanced by specific individual and demographic characteristics of spouses such as young age, immaturity, poor communication skills, low-income and poverty. Also cultural norms that emphasized male dominance over women contributed to the problem of domestic violence.

Family Problems and their Impact on Social Roles by Dr. Asmaa Samir Abdel Aziz.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of current social changes on the Egyptian family. The study focused on the effects of specific social changes such as the emigration of a spouse, the new Personal Law that gives married women the legal right to initiate and obtain divorce known

as Khul, and the Personal Law that stipulates that married women could not travel without the consent of their spouses. The study was conducted in Cairo, and Upper and Lower Egypt. With the use of social surveys, data was collected from three samples of married men and women selected from Cairo, Lower Egypt, and Upper Egypt. The numbers of the individuals in the three samples were 408, 96, and 102 from Cairo, Lower Egypt, and Upper Egypt respectively. The findings of the study showed that: the majority of the respondents in the three samples knew of the new divorce law Khul. There was a much higher rate of approval of the law among the respondents in Cairo than in Lower and Upper Egypt (74.1%, 39.5%, and 46.1% respectively). There was an agreement among the majority in each sample that the law pertaining to the travel of a wife resulted in family problems and conflicts between the spouses. Also most of the respondents in the three samples reported that the emigration of a spouse resulted in serious familial problems such as children getting into legal and societal troubles and emotional distance between the parent living abroad and the rest of the family who were in the homeland. The results of the study also confirmed that low income and economic deprivation contributed to familial problems.

b. Rural Development

Indicators of development in education, health, and access to public services show a nationwide progress that is also reflected in rural areas. For example, in the period 1960-1993, infant mortality in rural areas fell by 60%. Also in the period 1986-1996 the literacy rate in rural areas showed an increase of 31%. Nevertheless, there still exist serious and significant disparities between urban and rural population groups. The main dimensions of these inequities are: higher rate of poverty, higher rate of illiteracy, malnutrition and child mortality, environmental degradation, and inadequate access to public goods. Illiteracy rates in rural areas, for instance, are 38% and 62% for men and women respectively. Moreover, although malnutrition decreased in rural areas, it is still a problem for 35% of rural children compared to 26% of the children in urban areas. Also, even though 97% of rural areas are supplied with drinking water, the provision of sanitary drainage facilities is inadequate in 93% of these areas. The situation is particularly serious in Upper Egypt where 43% of the total rural population is located. While poverty has declined nationwide, it has increased in Upper Egypt. In fact, 34 % of the population in Upper Egypt are among the poorest nationwide. Moreover, the number of children who work and do not attend school in Upper Egypt is disproportionately higher than anywhere else in the

country. Child mortality is 2 times higher in Upper Egypt than in urban governorates and 1.4 times higher than in Lower Egypt.

This section presents summaries of studies that focus on different aspects of the development process in rural areas in Egypt. The studies research the needs and problems of rural communities, the different kinds of developmental activities that are being carried out in these areas, and the impediments to development efforts. The themes that the studies focus on include: enhancement of agricultural and animal production through the use of simple and effective technology, land tenure laws and practices, reclamation of land and establishment of agricultural settlements, the enhancement of environmental knowledge of agricultural communities, the establishment of small-income generating agricultural projects, and the involvement of local leadership and community members in development projects.

The Unemployment of Educated Rural Youth and Small Enterprises by Dr. Abdel Halim Abbas Eshta and Dr. El Shafi Azzam.

The involvement of the youth in agricultural and social activities is the cornerstone of successful development plans. Encouraging young educated people to participate in small income-generating projects is an effective way of addressing the problem of unemployment and involving younger generations in developmental activities. The objectives of this study were to: 1) identify the personal characteristics of young graduates in general and those who operate small enterprises in particular, 2) determine the tendency of young graduates to participate in such enterprises, 3) determine the sources that these graduates use to get information about such enterprises, 4) determine and describe the kinds of projects that graduates operate, and 5) determine the level of confidence and training exhibited by young people who run small enterprises. The study was conducted in four villages in the governorate of Beni Suif, upper Egypt using two samples of 104 young graduates in general and 61 of those in running small enterprises. The researchers found that: The majority of the individuals in the first sample were graduates of mid-level schools. Only a third of the first sample was employed at the time of the study. The majority of those who were running projects were graduates of mid-level commercial schools. Both samples included fair sizes of men and women. Most of those who were running projects based them on agricultural activities. Also a high rate of them owned their own projects (96.7%). The youth in both samples exhibited a great interest in operating and participating in projects. The main sources that the sampled youth depended on for information about running projects

were: friends, the Coptic Society for Services and Training (a local NGO working in the area), co-workers, and books. The main problems confronted by young graduates who were running projects were: marketing, unsuitability of project location, legal procedures involved in setting up and running the projects, and the high price of raw materials. Based on the findings of the study, the researchers in coordination with the Coptic Society for Services and Training conducted a training program for 18 graduates on the concept and significance of small enterprises, good sources of credit, and methods of conducting good feasibility studies.

Establishing Small Income-Generating Projects in the Villages of Young Graduates: Mubarak National Project in East Delta Region by Dr. Saad El Din Mohamed Abdel Aal:

Recently the establishment of small income-generating projects has been viewed by governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as local communities in rural areas as one of the central ways to address the problem of unemployment. However, it has been noted that the effectiveness of such projects is undermined by the low skill and knowledge level of young farmers who participate in such projects or wish to do so and the lack of suitable technology. The main aims of this study were to: 1) determine the kinds of small projects established in newly built rural communities under the Mubarak National Project for the employment of graduates in East Delta region, 2) identify the knowledge of graduates in these areas of these small income-generating projects, 3) identify the main problems faced by the sampled graduates in establishing such projects and their suggestions for solutions, and 4) prepare a guide about small projects. The study was conducted in four villages on a sample of 250 graduates who were recipients of agricultural lands distributed by the Mubarak National Project for the employment of graduates. The main findings of the study were: The majority of the sample graduates were in the age range of 30-35, came from rural background, and were holders of qualifications in agriculture. A third of these graduates were engaged in economic activities in addition to farming. A high percentage of the sample (39.2%) did not own any livestock. This led to small percentage of young graduates engaging in animal production projects. The agricultural equipment that most of these farmers used was inadequate for the reclamation activities in which they engaged. The majority of these farmers felt safe in their new settlements and 42% of them felt safe enough to relocate with their families to their new communities. Also, the majority of the sampled farmers focused on agricultural work, while only 17.6% worked in formal jobs in addition to their agricultural activities. A third of the farmers engaged in income-generating projects. The most common of these projects were managing vegetable

gardens for others and establishment of nurseries for decoration plants. The least common project was poultry and dairy production. 60% of the farmers had a low level of knowledge of income-generating projects although more than half of them expressed high interest in running a small project. The main problems that impeded the establishment and running of these projects were ranked by the farmers as follows: their lack of training, loan and financing obstacles, and lastly temperature and desertification challenges. The researcher recommended: 1) a reexamination of the current law pertaining to the establishment of Social Fund and development of negotiation programs with donor agencies to facilitate financing procedures, and 2) availability of guidance and training efforts that would upgrade the level of knowledge of farmers in regard to the establishment and running of income-generating projects.

Developing the Skills of Small Farmers in Producing and Marketing Safe Agricultural Produce in Al Ismailia and Suez Governorates by Dr. Abdel Hamid Habashi Amer.

The aims of this study were to: 1) describe the agricultural practices of small farmers within the framework of the quality level of GAB, 2) describe the practices of small farmers in marketing activities, 3) identify the shortcomings in these practices, 4) introduce small farmers to the standards of good and safe agricultural production within the framework of GAB, 5) determine the farmers' perspectives on the solutions to the problems they encounter in their agricultural activities, and 6) propose a plan for a media program that aims at developing and improving the production and marketing activities of small farmers. The study was conducted in two villages in the governorates of Ismailia and Suez on a sample of 112 young graduates who were trained in agricultural activities and supported by two local cooperatives in the area. The main findings of the study were: The majority of the sampled farmers were from rural background and thus had previous agricultural experience. The graduates also received training in agricultural activities. Prior to their acquisition of land, these graduates were unemployed. Most of them reported that they were satisfied with the availability of chemical fertilizers, irrigation water, and labor force. The availability of a safe agricultural product that met the standards of international quality was the biggest obstacle that these farmers encountered. The farmers also reported that the training they received was useful in environmental protection but lacking in preparation of organic fertilizers. The most serious problems faced by the farmers in their agricultural activities were: the difficulty of using an integrated control program, low level of training in the preparation of organic fertilizers, weak

guidance efforts, shortage of organic fertilizers, and the high prices of alternative fertilizers and pesticides. The study also showed that there was lack of important agricultural equipment in the sampled villages. Lastly, the study found that there were several official organizations that were delivering important services to the farmers in the area, yet the overall farming practices of small farmers reflected low production. The researcher concluded that there was need for coordinated and well-organized efforts to provide the necessary training to these farmers within the framework of farmers' cooperatives.

Unemployment among the Educated and the Role of Small Enterprises in Solving the Problem: An Evaluation Study in Gharbia by Dr. Abdel Moneim Abdel Hai and Dr. Ayman Abbas El Komy.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the role played by small enterprises in solving the problem of unemployment. The study took place in the following locations in Gharbia governorate: The Integrated Social Service Center, The National Program for Integrated Rural Services, the Productive Family and Professional Formation Association, The Agricultural Cooperative for Cooperative Funding, The Social Fund for Development and The Businessmen Association. Gharbia was chosen as a field site for the following reasons: first, the number of graduates in the governorates was high (23, 3184). second, there were no studies that researched this issue in the governorate. And third, Gharbia was the home governorate of the researchers, which facilitated the fieldwork. Data was collected with the use of a survey from a sample of young graduates running small enterprises. The results of the study were: the majority of the sample was males and in the age group 30-35. Most of the respondents had a middle level education and resided in rural areas. Eighty-five percent of the respondents were married. The largest percentage of small enterprises was in the area of textiles (18.3%), while the lowest was in the tile-making industry (2.5%). The largest percentage of projects was established in rural areas (51.7%) and the value of the loan for the majority of respondents ranged between EP5000 and EP15,000. The majority of the respondents reported that the monthly income of the project was less than EP 100. Also, a third of the respondents reported having problems running their enterprises. The main problems that the respondents encountered were related to taxation and administrative policies as well as the absence of a governmental agency in charge of small enterprises. The results of the study also showed that 55.8% of the respondents reported having problems finding appropriate sites for projects in urban areas. Moreover, sixty three percent of the respondents reported a problem of low productivity. It become evident that the main

reasons behind the problems were the absence of planning for the production and the reliance on obsolete equipment and tools. A large percentage of the respondents (71.7%) also said that they had a marketing problem. This was particularly true of female respondents (88.4%). The causes of this problem were absence of information about different markets and lack of effective advertising. The researchers concluded that for small enterprises to play an effective role in solving the problem of the unemployment of young graduates, it was necessary to establish a governmental agency that would be in charge of implementing an integrated national strategy for small industries and to facilitate coordination among them.

Developing the Agricultural Entrepreneurial Skills of Young Graduates in New Villages by Dr. Samir Abdel Ghafar.

The objectives of this study were to: 1) determine young graduates' knowledge level and implementing skills to start small projects 2) identify the problems that graduates face in establishment of small agricultural projects, and 3) design and implement a training program to develop the skills of the sampled graduates. The study was conducted in the village of Al Raid in Suez, which is one of the villages that were handed over by the government to young graduates in 1993. The study sample consisted of 20 graduates and 5 agricultural engineers. Focus group discussions were used to identify the kinds of projects that would meet the needs and interests of the graduates in the village. The training program that was designed and implemented by the research team included workshops and regular field visits to monitor and enhance the development of the skills of the graduates. The researcher found that: the majority of the graduates were residents of Suez, younger than 40, and married. Most of the sampled graduates farmed up to 5 acres and had livestock. 69% of them did not have agricultural machines. The sampled graduates exhibited good knowledge of the benefits of running small income-generating projects. Accordingly, the research team developed a training program to develop the skills of the farmers in running small projects such as apiaries. 15% of the farmers successfully started an apiary, and 60% indicated that they were interested in starting a similar project. On the other hand 25% of the graduates did not want to start the project because they lacked capital, time, necessary materials, and a place where they could set up their business. The researcher found that there were various benefits for the apiary projects that were started by some of the graduates. For example, more farmers in the village became aware of the benefits of running small agricultural projects. Also, the new project led to the farming of new crops such as sunflower and an increase in the

production of some vegetables. These small projects also generated good income for their owners and created employment opportunities for other graduates.

The Development of the Production of Natural Silk in Agricultural Reform Cooperatives in Al Sharkia Governorate by Dr. Abdel Hamid Ibrahim Zanoun and Dr. Ahmed Fuad Abdel Mutalib.

Producing silk through raising silk worms is considered one of the good sources of additional income for the youth and graduates in rural areas. The aims of this study were to: 1) identify the knowledge and skill levels of young graduates and rural people in production of natural silk through raising silk worms, 2) identify the available guidance efforts in this area, 3) determine the challenges of raising silk worms from the perspective of veteran business owners in the field, and 4) design a training program to upgrade the skills of agricultural guides and young graduates in this field. The study was conducted in Zagazig area in Sharkia governorate where there are current production activities and adequate human and environmental resources to produce silk. In addition to conducting interviews and focus group discussions with a sample of 120 silk worm breeders, the researchers organized and participated in workshops and discussions with local government officials, senior members of agricultural cooperatives and the youth. The researchers also used questionnaires to identify the personal characteristics of the subjects of the study. The main findings of the study were: more than half the subjects reported that breeding silk worms was significant income-generating project that would provide employment for young graduates. However, information about this kind of enterprise constituted only 15% of sources of information that were available to the graduates in the area. Silk worm breeders faced particular problems that affected the success of their business such as the shortage of mulberry trees whose leaves are used as the primary source of food for silk worms. Also breeders lacked adequate equipment to remove the cocoons, and had difficulty marketing their products because of their low knowledge and skill level.

Family Poultry Production to Combat Poverty: A Case Study of Villages in Munufia Governorate by Dr. Yousri Abdel Mawla.

This study examined poultry production system in some villages in Munufia governorate. The aims of the study were to: 1) determine the skills and knowledge of housewives in regard to poultry production, 2) determine the

awareness of housewives of the services offered by the Agricultural Extension Department in the area of poultry production, and 3) identify the obstacles in developing poultry production and the suggestions of different actors involved in this industry. The main findings of the study were: The majority of the female respondents were married and working. Two thirds of the egg distributors had limited experience in the area of poultry and never attended any training sessions. Two thirds of the poultry distributors never attended training sessions. Female respondents relied mainly on their individual knowledge as well as on their families and neighbors to obtain information about poultry raising. Also, the respondents' knowledge about the diseases that chickens could get, means of contracting diseases, and prevention was limited. The findings also indicated that two thirds of the respondents had no idea about the services offered by the Agricultural Extension Cooperative to increase the production of poultry. The most serious problems encountered by the female respondents in their business were: death of chickens, high costs of breeding, lack of manpower, shortage of fodder and hatching eggs and absence of organizations concerned with poultry production.

Supporting and Developing the Skills of Farmers in Animal Husbandry to Increase the Income of Rural Families by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz El Wardani.

The aims of this study were to: 1) enhance the skills of farmers in using simple and suitable techniques to raise farm animals through an integrated training program, and 2) assess the economic and social benefits that the targeted group of farmers received from this program. The researcher conducted an exploratory survey of 300 farmers in the governorate of Ismailia. Thirty-six farmers were then selected from the sample to participate in 3 trainings courses on the use of simple and effective techniques in rearing farm animals. The findings of the study showed that the best kinds of fodder used by the farmers were clover followed by the straw of wheat, barley, rice and corn. Clover was mainly used in the winter, while straw was more common in the other seasons. The results also showed that the amount of milk produced by the farmers varied significantly because of the techniques they used in raising livestock varied in their level of effectiveness. Also, the costs of animal fodder are much higher than the income generated from animal husbandry. Ninety-two percent of the farmers who participated in the training program showed progress in their abilities to adopt and implement an agricultural plan that would enhance their farming activities and increase the income they generate from animal husbandry.

Patterns of Nutrition in Rural Families and the Significance of Changing and Developing These Patterns by Dr. Ahlam Anis Armanyos.

Maintaining the health of rural families is an important aspect of the development of rural communities. The goals of this study were to: 1) determine the consumption patterns of rural families with regard to primary food and the distribution of rations to individual family members, 2) examine the level and sources of nutritional knowledge of rural women, 3) examine some of the women's nutritional habits, 4) analyze the extent to which rural women change their nutritional practices, and 5) design and implement a training program to develop the level of nutritional awareness of women. The study was conducted on 150 female villagers who had been randomly selected from the local community supported by the Society of the Development of Local Community in Shabramant in Giza governorate. The main findings of the study were:

The majority of the women demonstrated a medium level of nutritional knowledge. Most of the women reported that they depended on their personal experience as a source of their nutritional knowledge. Mothers, followed by friends and neighbors, then TV were also cited by the women as sources of nutritional knowledge. Most families reported that they had three meals a day. In the majority of the cases, wives determined the kinds of food to be consumed during meals. In a third of the cases, women also distributed the food rations to family members at meal times, whereas in 44.5% of the cases individual members served themselves. In addition in 40% of the cases, the senior male member of the family (e.g. the husband or husband's father) received a higher food ration than other family members. It was also found that the respondents' nutritional knowledge increased after the implementation of the training program designed by the researcher. The researcher concluded that the nutritional awareness of rural women could be upgraded through effective training programs that were based on accurate assessment of the needs of the women.

The Impact of Fish Farms on Rural Development Villages in Beheira Governorate by Dr. Mohamed Samir Mustafa Al Daly.

The purpose of this study was to identify the social and economic characteristics of a sample of fish farmers, their knowledge of fish farming, and the problems they encounter in their business. The research was conducted in 21 villages in Beheira governorate. Data was collected from a sample of 360 fish farmers with the use of questionnaires and participant observation. Awareness raising meetings and seminars with fish farmers were also organized and held by the researcher in the course of the

research project. The findings of the study showed that: first, breeding fish in basins and farms, in cages floating on the Nile, and on rice fields were the main methods used by the respondents. second, the majority of the sampled fish farmers exhibited partial or limited knowledge of fish farming in floating cages. The majority of those who used fish farms and basins had good technical knowledge, while 22% had none. 64% of the respondents favored fish farming in rice fields. Third, the main problems that the respondents encountered in their work were: the presence of wild sea lobsters, laws obstructing the establishment of fish farms and fish cages, the spread of fish diseases, lack of technical knowledge for the production of fish, and the absences of fishermen's associations and syndicates.

Developing and Enhancing the Skills of Fishers in Edco Lake in Al Beheira Governorate by Mr. Abdel Al Mawla Ismail.

In Edco lake, there has been increasing problem of water deduction. The phenomenon of water deduction refers to the decrease of water in the water plains because industrial and fish farm wastes are discarded in the lake. This has had a negative impact on the livelihood of the fishers in the area. The aims of this study were to identify the problems that fishers in this area face and propose ways to develop their skills. The study was conducted in the city of Edco. Data was collected from 100 fishers through the use of focus group discussions, case studies, and in-depth interviews. Ninety percent of the sample was male while 10% was female since very few women work in fishing. The majority of the sample was in the age group of 20-40, while 10 percent of the sample aged less than 15 years old and 5 percent was less than 20 years old. The findings of the study showed that: there was a strong relationship between the development of natural resources such as Edco Lake and the skills of human resources such as the fishermen. The problem of water deduction which was enhanced by the establishment of restricted fish farms resulted in the inability to catch sufficient fish and thus greatly limited the fishers' ability to secure adequate livelihood from fishing. This has discouraged fishers to marry their girls to men in the same business since fishing was no longer seen as the kind of work that could generate adequate income to sustain a family. Moreover, most of the parents who worked in the business used their own children as unpaid laborers to save the money needed to hire labor force because of the hard times in the business. Also some of the fisher men immigrated to Arab countries to look for job, while others (27% of the sample) left Edco for other lakes to look for work. The results of the study also showed that because of their inability to catch sufficient fish to generate adequate income, some of the fishers in Edco had been using certain techniques of fishing that are

leading to squandering the fish in the lake. The researcher also found that the fishermen and their cooperatives lacked power or active participation in making decisions about use of fish resources in the area. Because of the ineffectiveness of the fishers' cooperatives, 30% of the sample did not join any of these cooperatives or participate in their activities. The researcher concluded that there was urgent need for strict and effective policies and regulations that would monitor the waste disposal practices of industries. Also, the researcher recommended changing current government policies and practices that help consolidate the power of private owners of fish farms at the expense of a large number of fishers.

Developing a Simplified System to Produce Organic Fertilizers by Dr. Engineer Ahmed Fuad Abel Motaleb and Dr. Saadeddin Abdel Aal.

The overall objective of this study was to develop a technical engineering system to manufacture organic industrial fertilizers (the composite) to respond to the needs of young peasants in expanding organic agriculture in Sharkia governorate. To achieve this objective, the researchers: 1) identified the behaviors of young farmers in manufacturing the composite and implementing organic agriculture, 2) determined the problems that young farmers faced in manufacturing the composite and implementing organic cultivation, and 3) identified the suggestions of young farmers on how to overcome these problems. The study was conducted in Sharkia because the Central Association for Land Reform in the governorate was running a project to develop the knowledge and skills of peasants in implementing organic agriculture. Data was collected from a random sample of 200 respondents selected from the Association's membership list. The findings of the study showed that: first, two thirds of the sample were illiterate. 45% of the respondents were agriculturalists, while the rest worked in other occupations in addition to farming. Second, 59% of the respondents had a low level exposure to available agricultural information. Young farmers had a medium level knowledge on how to dispose of agricultural waste in a safe and useful way. The majority of the respondents had low level of knowledge of modern techniques in making use of agricultural waste. 24% of the respondents did not know anything about the importance of organic fertilizers and 40% had low level of knowledge. Also, the majority of the respondents had no knowledge about clean agriculture. A slight majority of the respondents, however, had average perception of the efforts exerted in the governorate to introduce organic fertilizers. Lastly, according to the small farmers, the main problems that inhibited the production of organic fertilizers were: lack of guidance and successful pilot experiments, followed by lack of necessary equipment, then the fears of the farmers that crop yield

would decrease if chemical fertilizers were replaced by organic fertilizers, and finally the absence of a place to do the work and the farmers' fear of damaging their land. The respondents suggested organizing campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of organic fertilizers through practical demonstrations of new techniques in making use of agricultural waste to produce organic fertilizers.

Recycling Agricultural Waste: Developing Knowledge and Skills of Farmers in Sharkia Governorate by Dr. Saadeddin Mohamed Abdel Aal and Dr. Ahmed Fuad Abdel Motaleb.

Agricultural waste reached 23.7 million tons on the national level. In Sharkia, the figure is 1.6 million tons of cotton, corn, and rice waste, in addition to animal waste. This waste is a burden because of the entailed destruction and pollution of environment. The objectives of this study were to: 1) enhance the technical knowledge, behaviors, and skills of farmers in treating and recycling agricultural waste in a safe and economical fashion through the use of baladi compressor, 2) raise the level of communication among agricultural workers in order to facilitate a sound treatment and recycling of agricultural waste, 3) enhance the performance of the baladi compressor, and 4) upgrade the level of professional safety and security for workers using the present baladi compressor. Data was collected from 250 farmers in six land reform associations in Sharkia using questionnaires and rapid participatory research methods. The baladi compressor was modified and upgraded and its use was demonstrated to farmers and workers. The main findings of the study indicated that: First, the majority of the respondents had low educational level. They mostly engaged in agricultural activities and came from families who participated in similar activities. Second, 99% of the sample cultivated rice, which caused a seasonal problem because of the large quantities of rice straw. Also 53% of the sample cultivated corn which also caused environmental problems. Third, half the sample burned agricultural waste in the fields and one third of the sample applied faulty methods of disposal. The majority had prior knowledge about the damage that the burning of waste caused, but they justified it by the need to clear and clean their land for the next agricultural crop. The majority of the respondents reported that guidance and awareness raising efforts were not adequate. Most of the farmers ranked the obstacles to a safe and good use of agricultural waste as follows: shortage of compressors, lack of guidance and finally breakdown of compressors. The researchers recommended introducing new methods of agricultural guidance which entailed the training of agricultural engineers in using "demonstrations by participation" and making available the necessary financial support for a central policy of effective agricultural guidance.

The Effect of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides on Rural Development in Sharkia Governorate by Dr. Mahran Soliman Eita.

The purpose of this study was to contribute to on-going efforts to decrease environmental pollution that is caused by the use of chemical elements such as fertilizers and pesticides. To achieve this purpose, the researcher examined: 1) the development of chemical technology (e.g. fertilizers and pesticides) in agriculture, 2) the effect of chemical technology on agricultural development, 3) the effect of economic reform on the scope of using fertilizers and agricultural pesticides, and 4) some technological applications that decreased the use of chemical elements in agriculture. Examples of these applications were: organic agriculture, use of agricultural waste, and the expansion of the use of organic and manual pest control especially in the case of vegetable produce. The study sample was drawn from two districts in Sharkia that were known for farming vegetables. The findings of the study were as follows: first, the farmers in the sample used large quantities of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that exceeded the standard recommended amounts for vegetable produce. Despite the overuse of chemical elements, the increase in productivity did not reach the level that enhanced profits, second, the farmers' main sources of chemical fertilizers were: fertilizer merchants and the village bank. Also, none of the farmers made transactions with the agricultural stock market, which reflected the dominance of the private sector as a source of fertilizers. The majority of the farmers reported that they depended on their experience when deciding the amount and the kind of fertilizers to be used, while only 6.5% reported that they made use of the guidance of agricultural supervisors, third, 57.3% of the respondents knew of the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers on human health, while 42.73% had no similar knowledge, fourth, the most common pest control methods that were used by the farmers were: chemical and then manual. The majority of the farmers carried out pest control activities themselves, while only 5.6% resorted to the help of the agricultural cooperative in the area. Lastly, spraying was reported as the most common way of using pesticides. The researcher concluded that there was a strong need for enhancing the role of agricultural cooperatives and agricultural extension in educating and training farmers on how to use safe and effective fertilizers and pesticides.

Socio-Economic and Health Impacts of Water Degradation in Rural Egypt: A Case Study in Behira Governorate by Dr. Salwa M. Abdalla.

The focus of this study was to address the problem of agro-ecosystem deterioration resulting from serious contamination by industrial and

agricultural activities coupled with poverty-linked problems such as poor disposal systems. The study was carried out in 12 villages in the Behira Governorate, Northern Nile Delta region. A micro-level study was also conducted in two villages under severe environmental stress resulting from the discharge of hazardous industrial wastes in the adjacent water network and the heavy use of agrochemicals in agricultural activities. Moreover, lack of adequate sanitation facilities caused additional risk of water contamination with sewage waste. The PRA research technique was used with the active participation of community members. The findings of the study showed that: The soils in this region were susceptible erosion, high water table and salinity. Insufficient and polluted water resources coupled with poor health care services and lack of awareness increased land productivity problems and health risks particularly for the poor and vulnerable. Also because of the industrial pollution and subsequent decrease in land productivity, there was a significant increase in poverty among the farmers in the region. The researcher concluded that to break the cycle of environmental degradation and poverty, there needed to be community-based intervention programs that were formulated on a sound understanding of the cause-effect relationship between ecosystem degradation and poverty and human health on the other hand.

Environmental Pollution and Desertification in South Upper Egypt by Dr. Gamal Mohamed Kamal El Din.

The aims of this study were to examine the social dimensions of the problems of environmental pollution and desertification in South Upper Egypt and to propose natural alternatives (e.g. Nubia sandstone) for red brick which is one of the main sources of pollution. The study was conducted in Qena governorate in Upper Egypt over a period of twelve months. Data was collected from several areas in the governorate which suffer from the problems of desertification and environmental pollution using lab analyses of soil, satellite pictures, and interviews with farmers, residents, and those working in the manufacturing of red brick. The main findings of the study were: Many agricultural lands in the governorate were suffering from desertification. The problem of desertification was mainly caused the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming activities as well as the manufacturing process of red brick which involved the use of the top fertile layer of the soil to make the bricks, it also involves the burning of the mud in agricultural land. Moreover, the manufacturing of red brick was carried out through hazardous labor practices and in unsafe workplaces, which also contributed to air pollution. Because of the prevalent problem of unemployment, the business of manufacturing red brick attracted laborers

despite their very low wages. The researcher and his team conducted 10 workshops with the residents in the study sites to promote environmental awareness and advocate the use of Nubia sandstone in construction activities. The researcher recommended the use of this natural alternative because it is found in many parts of Upper Egypt and one of its constitutive elements (quartz) possesses contains a chemical resistance to the erosive action of the acidic chemicals in the atmosphere surrounding the field sites as well as many other Egyptian towns and cities.

Indicators of the Quality of Environmental Performance from an Economic and Social Perspective: A Case Study in New Basaysa Village by Ms. Samia Gabr Ahmed Shushan.

New Basaysa village, in Southern Sinai, is an example of the model of new communities that are founded through organized internal migration, redistribution of population, and participation of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the construction of the desert. In this village, there have been efforts by two NGOs and the local community to promote environmentally sound practices of energy consumption. For example, electricity is generated through solar energy to cut down the rate of pollution and household costs. Also, wind power is used in pumping water and Butagas units are built to get rid of wastes. The aims of this study were to highlight the importance of the presence of indicators of the quality of environmental performance and to identify its strengths and weaknesses. Since many of the residents in New Basaysa village emigrated from Old Basaysa village in Sharkia governorate, the study was conducted on a random sample of the residents in the two villages. Data was collected through administering questionnaires and conducting interviews with residents, project owners, and officials in both villages. The main findings of the study were: The residents of new Basaysa village were predominantly college graduates, married, and in the age group of 25-40. Forty percent of the residents in the new village worked in agriculture while the percentage of the unemployed in the old village was 15%. That is, unemployment was not a problem in the new community. The researcher, in fact, found that it was mostly those who did not own agricultural land in the old village that emigrated to the new village. The majority of the residents in the new community owned their own houses. Also, 96% of the residents in the new village had their own Butagas units and used them in getting rid of poultry and cattle wastes. The sample in the new village also exhibited more cohesive familial relations than that in the old village. The researcher concluded that there were indicators of environmentally sound and successful developmental process taking place in the new village.

The Ecological Analysis of the Egyptian Rural House by Dr. Hatem Abdel Moneim, Dr. Hassan Katari Mohamed, Dr. Ahmed Essmat Shuman, and Dr. Ahmed Mostafa Al Atiq.

The purpose of this study was to do an ecological analysis of the rural house in Egypt by examining the connections between the social, health, and psychological changes in the lives of its inhabitants and the architectural design of the house and its level of pollution. The study was conducted in two villages in Lower and Upper Egypt respectively. 200 houses in these villages were examined and relevant data was also collected from 200 individuals living in these houses. The respondents were from different sexes, age groups, social status, and educational level. Also the houses that were observed included both old and modern rural houses. The old houses included the sample were built before 1973. The findings of the study showed that: The housing units in Upper Egypt were superior to those in Lower Egypt in regard to the space and low cost of land. However, more housing units in Lower Egypt had adequate kitchen and bathrooms. The level of pollution in most of the housing units in both regions was quite high. However, the level of pollution in Upper Egypt was higher than that in Lower Egypt. The level of pollution in old housing units was also higher than that in new housing units in both regions. The results also showed that the housing unit had an impact on the social relations between the inhabitants of unit. That is in those units where clean water was available and pollution level was low, the social relations between family members tended to be better. Also the level of pollution in the house had an impact on the health of its inhabitants. Thus individuals living in housing units with little or no clean water, air pollution problems due to the presence of birds and animals, and with flies and dust, tended to suffer from health problems such as diarrhea, intestinal infections, Belharisa, hyper tension, and respiratory infections. In regard to the architectural aspects of the housing units, the researchers found that the design of the units in Upper Egypt ensured more privacy for their dwellers whereas the houses in Lower Egypt tended to be close to one another and open to the alleys and streets. Also, there were a higher number of older housing units in Lower Egypt. This could be explained by the low prices of land and the current increased interest in the development of Upper Egypt. Because Upper Egypt in general suffers from inadequate public facilities and goods, it has a higher percentage of seasonal homes which are abandoned by their inhabitants for some time during the year. Most of the new housing units in both regions were built on agricultural land. It was more common among the respondents who lived in new housing units to report a sense of alienation and discomfort in their homes. This could be explained by the design of old homes that enable dwellers to have more space and privacy. Yellow was the common color that was used in painting

the new housing units in Lower and Upper Egypt. White paint was also used for some of the new housing units in Lower Egypt. For the old housing units, particularly in Upper Egypt, green was the common color. The yellow color symbolizes sun and air while green symbolizes land and fertility. White does not have a specific meaning. Most of the designs on the walls were in the shapes of lines and squares. In the local contexts, these designs symbolized water, soil, fire, and important moral values such as honesty and integrity. Housing units were used by their inhabitants in different ways to fulfill particular social and psychological needs. For example, some dwellers painted their balconies in conspicuous colors or drew religious symbols on the front of their houses such as the Kaba to show their newly acquired social status as returning pilgrims. The researchers concluded that there was a strong link between the rural house and the social, psychological and social changes experienced by its dwellers. The researchers also emphasized the need to support the rural house in its role as a productive and social unit and to improve the health conditions of its dwellers by developing and enhancing basic public facilities such as clean water networks and adequate sewage system.

Using Palm Branches in Small Income-Generating Projects by Dr. Ashraf Kamal Boutros.

The aim of this study was to report on a developmental project that the researcher and his team implemented in the village of Hisat Shabshir in Gharbia governorate, involving the use of palm branches in income-generating projects. Palm branches were chosen as the raw material since palm trees are available in abundance in Egyptian villages. The study site was chosen based on its population size, distance from Tanta city, the availability of palm branches, the living costs, its lack of a variety of craft jobs, and the cultivated relationship between the research team and the village. The research team designed and set up a training and production workshop where male and female villagers were trained in making products out of palm branches (e.g. chairs, tables, cages) and were given opportunity to participate in income-generating projects in which their products were sold. The findings of the study showed that: male and female villagers equally participated in the project and did not have trouble working together in the workshop. During the training period, trainees received E.P 3 a day, while they made between E.P 1-4 a day during the production period. The working hours of the workshop were suitable for married women with children. Women were also able to bring along their children to the workshop. However, some of the tools used in the workshop were dangerous to the children. The main challenges that the project faced were

as follows: first, the production skills of some of the villagers were not adequately developed by the end of the project. This is because since the village was relatively far and the funds were limited, it was difficult to hire a professional trainer for the whole duration of the project. Therefore, the villagers who participated in the workshop were trained by numerous trainers who were hired on a temporary basis, second, the project did not result in the creation of a new creative and entrepreneurial spirit among the trainees. This was reflected in the lack of willingness of the trainees to continue with the project once the study was completed. Furthermore, the long training period in which trainees received monetary incentives led to decrease in the production of the workshop, third, the workshop was not supplemented with an effective marketing strategy that could have enhanced the sale of the products.

The Role of Rural Organizations in Providing Information about Export Produce in a new Technological Era by Dr. Kamal Sadik Al Nagar.

In its pursuit of rural development and enhancement of small producers, the Egyptian government has been currently depending on the efforts of official and non-official rural organizations that work in export-related activities. The aims of this study were to: 1) examine the current situation of agricultural exports, 2) determine the role of rural organizations in disseminating relevant information to farmers who farm exported produce, 3) identify the means of disseminating information in these organizations, and 4) identify the informational needs of farmers who produce exported crops and the ways to meet these needs. Quantitative data was collected from farmers of export produce (e.g. potato and strawberry) in the governorates of Munufia, Beheira, Kalubeia and Ismailia. Data was also collected about the activities of seven rural organizations that worked in the export of these crops. The main findings of the study showed that: First, the most important means of transfer of agricultural information among potato farmers in Munufia and Beheira were family and neighbors, and then the agricultural extension. Among strawberry farmers, the agricultural extension was the most important source of information followed by experienced family members and neighbors. Second, the most serious problems faced by the potato farmers were: the high price and shortage of seeds, the high price of labor, the shortage of irrigation, and weather conditions. Potato farmers also had difficulty marketing their produce and reported that merchants favored farmers with very large yields. The main problems that the strawberry farmers faced were: the high price of the seedlings, the exploitative business practices of merchants and companies providing the seedling, crop disease and damage, and difficulty of storage and marketing. Third, a little over than

half of the members of rural organizations (working in export-related activities) reported that there were no communications between their organizations and others, while 42.9% of the members reported there was once a year. Half the members thought that their organizations were successful in their activities, while a little over a third thought that there was no coordination between different rural organizations. The researcher recommended that rural organizations that worked in export-related activities give more technical support to farmers and agricultural guides. Also a better system of disseminating necessary information to the farmers needed to be in place. The researcher suggested that rural organizations organize meetings with farmers prior to their beginning the farming season to explain to them the standards required for export produce, the available kinds of seedlings, and how to handle crops since the beginning of the farming activity and until the final stage when the produce is ready for export.

The Revival and Development of Pottery Industry in South Upper Egypt by Dr. Gamal Mohamed Kamal El Din.

The city of Qena in Upper Egypt is famous for its pottery industry, which has a long history dating back to the time of Pharos. However with the development in the plastic and aluminum industry, the one in pottery lagged behind. Although there have been recent efforts to revive the pottery industry, there are still many problems that are confronted by those working in this field. The aims of this study were to identify the problems that workers and industry owners in this field confront and propose solutions to these problems. The researcher found that there were problems in the extrication and production of the main raw material used in the industry, called Altafla. These problems mainly resulted from: industry owners' lack of knowledge of the rules and regulations to be followed in the extrication of Altafla, which subjected them to legal sanctions. Also the workers in the extrication efforts worked in dangerous working conditions that exposed them to fatal injuries. The researcher also identified problems regarding production and sale: Owners of pottery workshops were unable to secure flexible loans that would facilitate the production work. This resulted in products of poor quality. The researcher also noted that owners and the workers in the workshops had grim views of the prospects of their work and did not think that positive changes could be made. The researcher proposed that workers in mines, industry owners and workshop workers all needed training to develop a sound environmental awareness and good professional skills that would enable them to improve the quality of their products. The researcher also recommended that good communications be established

between industry owners and the senior administrators who were in charge of the management of Qena mines.

Folk Pottery: A Field Study in the City of Qena by Ms. Iman Ali Mahran.

Because of recent technological advances in manufactured industries, hand-made products have been less in demand. Pottery products, in particular, have suffered from this problem. However, recently there have been efforts to revive the industry by promoting the use of pottery in making cooking utensils because of its safety to human health. The aims of this study were to identify the problems that the industry faces, and propose a plan to develop the industry that would make use of the materials that are available in the local communities. The main findings of the study showed that: The decrease in demand for pottery products was caused by several factors such as the prevalence of refrigerators and the use of glass and plastic as alternatives to pottery. Consequently, the low demand for pottery products led to the loss of laborers. In particular, there was a shortage in female laborers. Those who were still working in the field lacked organized guilds or syndicates that would support them. Also the local banks did not provide financial support to pottery industry owners who, for example, needed flexible loans to enhance their businesses. Despite these challenges, the researcher concluded that there were still benefits to the industry. For example, only small capital was needed to establish a pottery business. In addition, the strong social relationships between the workers led to the transfer of skills from one generation to the other. Thus, the researcher recommended the adoption of multilayered efforts to maintain and enhance this industry. These efforts would include: establishing effective communication between artists, academics, and workers in the field, conducting training workshops to enhance the skills of the workers, and experimenting with new and creative uses of pottery products in order to enhance its marketability.

Settling Bedouins in Al Sharit Area, Sinai by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz El Naggar.

The purpose of this study was to describe and analyze the project for settling Bedouins in the borderline of the central areas of Sinai. The idea of this project was to develop the area by establishing agricultural housing units that would cultivate crops capable of growing and enduring long periods of drought in Sinai. Due to the variations in the climatic conditions and availability of water in Sinai, the project founded two centers (Al Hosna and

Nakhl) and was implemented in three stages. In the first stage, high yielding crops that endured salinity and drought were cultivated. In the second stage, the effectiveness of some agricultural transactions and productivity of some field crops (e.g. wheat, barley, and lentils) were evaluated. Also high yielding crops such as green pepper, tomatoes, and cucumbers were crossbred. Also in this stage the greenhouse was used as a site for dissemination of knowledge and news about crops that had been cultivated under protection conditions. In the final stage, the results were applied with the collaboration of the executive bodies (e.g. governorates of North Sinai, the agricultural directorate and Sinai reconstruction body) as well as with the participation of farmers and Bedouins. An analysis of the progress and achievement of the project showed that: First, the best sites to cultivate wheat were the torrents pathways where the soil was characterized by the high levels of mud ranging between 10-25% which allowed the soil to preserve water and provided the plants with water for a relatively long period of time. Also, the seasonal conditions in this area did not allow the cultivation of durable crops such as peach and almond since those could be damaged by the torrents. Second, barely endured drought more than wheat. Third, the quality of water in Beer Youssef, the sole source of irrigation in Om Shiha village in Al Hosna Center, was relatively acceptable because the excessive salinity allowed the cultivation of specific kinds of vegetables. Also, the concentration of salts declined during the stages of continuous consumption because of low temperature, low evaporation, and rainfall. Furthermore, most of the project sites had sandy soil with the exception of the torrent pathways which were sandy. To combat pests, farmers mostly used sticky yellow traps and sprayed plant pesticides. These methods were fairly effective and reduced pests by 50%. Lastly, the main problems that the farmers faced were related to marketing. Some of these problems were: inappropriate prices, absence of sufficient markets, lack of data and marketing information and inadequate means of transportation. The researcher recommended that the government design and implement appropriate policies to improve the performance of the market. In particular, the researcher recommended the establishment of markets and the development of existing ones in deprived villages.

Problems Facing Young Graduates and Their Impact on Settlement and Development in the New Lands by Dr. Mounir Fouda.

In the area of agriculture, the Egyptian government has adopted a development policy to reclaim new lands, cultivate desert lands and build new urban communities to lessen the pressure on the old valley land. The aims of this study were to identify the problems that young people faced in

new lands and determine effective ways of addressing them. The research was conducted in the new settlements in the Kibli Haroun area in Fayoum and in west Fishn in Bani Suif. Data was collected from 150 graduates in these settlements with the use of questionnaires, focus group discussions, and personal interviews. The main findings of the study showed that: Most of the respondents cultivated land directly after they received it. Since most of the graduates in the sample were young and had small children, they did not receive help from their family members in their agricultural activities. There was an increase in the productivity of the acre of wheat, rising to 18% when the averages of the first two years of agriculture were compared with the last two. The graduates' main source of income was from agricultural crops. In other words, despite having settled in the new lands for a relatively long period of time (13 years in Al Fishn and 7 in Karoun), there was no diversity in income sources among the graduates. The most serious problems that confronted the graduates mainly related to agriculture; lack of water, lack of financial resources and loans, difficulty of marketing agricultural products, lack of portable water and drainage, and lack of means of transportation. Irrigation problems were caused by low ejection power of the irrigation stations in Karoun and by abusive practices of water control on the part of some investors in Al Fishn. To solve these problems, efforts were underway to do maintenance work in the irrigation stations, and graduates were cooperating with settlement control units to monitor the distribution of water. In conclusion, the study found a strong positive and statistically significant correlation between the level of development and the degree of settlement and economic and agricultural stability. The researcher recommended the establishment of cooperation and coordination between different agencies and the integration of the new settlements into the activities of the whole community as a whole. The researcher also suggested that there was a strong need for the establishment good infra structures to enhance developmental activities in the new lands.

The Role of Local Non-governmental Organizations in Achieving Social and Economic Development in Kafr Hamouda Village in Eastern Hahia District by Dr. Mohamed El Sayid Arnaut.

The aims of this study were to examine: 1) the activities of non-governmental organizations in Kafr Hamouda village, 2) the obstacles that they face, and 3) the link between the personal characteristics of board members of these organizations and the degree of their knowledge and implementation of rural development projects. The findings of the study showed that: The local organizations in this village worked in the fields of social care, cleaning and beautifying the streets, vocational training of girls, and management of

apiary projects. Islamic local organizations ran Quranic education programs in addition to social care projects. The challenges that all local organizations faced were of two kinds: 1) external problems such as shortage of donations due to the restrictions of the NGO laws and lack of enthusiasm among local donors, and 2) internal challenges such as the poor administrative and fundraising skills of staff members, their inability to delegate work, and their lack of expertise. Also the majority of the representative sample of the villagers reported dissatisfaction with the services of the local NGOs. The researcher recommended the design and implementation of an awareness program that would promote the role of the local NGOs and a training program that would develop the professional skills of the staff and board members of these NGOs.

Incorporating the Marginalized in Rural Areas into Rural Development Projects by Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy Al Kordi and Mr. Ashraf Abdel Alahi.

The aims of this study were to identify: the nature and characteristics of the marginalized in rural areas, the causes of their marginalization, and the features of the rural development process and its relevance to the marginalized. The study was conducted in the village of Beni Amir in Menia governorate in Upper Egypt due to the low level of the development process in the area. Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions were used in the collection of the data from a sample of 100 individuals. The findings of the study indicated that: 69% of the respondents worked in agriculture. However they did not work on a regular basis and thus they also worked intermittently in construction activities. The majority of the respondents considered themselves poor and reported that their incomes were increasingly becoming very low. Also, the women in marginalized families were in worse situation because they carried unskilled and low-paying work in addition to housework and childcare. There were three coping strategies that were used by the respondents to deal with their marginalized living conditions: resignation, adaptation, and constructive confrontation such as finding additional work. The results of the study also showed that while the respondents were socially active within their families and in their relationships with their neighbors, they did not exhibit any involvement in their local communities. The respondents also lacked social support systems; a small percentage of them (28%) received regular assistance from the government or their neighbors. The respondents also reported that they did not think that development was attainable in their village without solving the problem of unemployment. Furthermore, the respondents reported lack of trust in the commitment of the private sector to the development of rural areas and believed that the government should

play a central role in development efforts. The researcher concluded that the involvement of the marginalized in the development process necessitates: constructive negotiation among the government, the society and the private sector, creation of resources through innovative projects, and the availability of opportunities for the involvement of the marginalized through work, education, and health care.

Poverty and its Relation to Developmental Practices among Rural Egyptians: An Exploratory Study in Sohag and Kafr El Sheikh Governorates by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Khamis.

The purposes of this study were: 1) to identify the characteristics of the poor and the non-poor in Egyptian rural areas, 2) examine the differences between the two groups, and 3) examine the ways in which the situation of the rural poor can be improved. The study was conducted in Sohag, in Upper Egypt and Kafr El Sheikh in Delta because the two governorates were ranked fairly close to one another in the Human Development Index Measure in Egypt in 1999 (the seventeenth and fourteenth places respectively). This study was carried out in 8 villages (4 in each governorate) on a sample of 561 heads of households. Questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used in the collection of data. To measure the poverty of the respondents, the food-based poverty line was used. The main findings of the study were: There were comparable percentages of poor family households in both governorates (28.4% in Sohag and 27.6% in Kafr El Sheikh). The majority of the poor in both governorates worked in agriculture. The percentage of those who worked in agriculture among the poor was higher than that among the non-poor. The living standard of the poor was significantly lower than that of the non-poor in the two governorates. These differences were reflected in the income level, possession of household appliances, acquisition of university education, child mortality, and chronic health problems. Also, a very small percentage of the poor owned small income-generating projects (2.5%). The results of the study also showed that both the majority of the poor and non-poor respondents identified the following as the main causes of poverty: weak financial resources and having too many children. Most of the respondents also believed that the problem of rural poverty could be addressed through creating opportunities for employment for the youth and supporting farmers through low-interest micro loans.

The Transformations of the Power Structure and its Relationship to Rural Development in the Contemporary Egyptian Village by Ashraf Mahmoud.

In 1990s, the introduction of structural adjustment programs resulted in the decrease of the influence of the government in rural affairs and an increasing gap between the rich and poor. The aim of this study was to examine the changes in the rural power structure as a result of structural adjustment programs. The study was conducted in four villages in northern Egypt (Daqahila Governorate) and southern Egypt (Qena). Using a questionnaires, data was collected from 365 heads of households in the selected villages. Sixty in-depth interviews were also conducted with respondents in the sample (10 from each village). Socio-historical and statistical data about the villages were also consulted. The findings presented below are based on the data collected from two villages. In one village, the respondents ranked material possessions as the most important source of power followed by professional position, while in another village the respondents ranked education and morality as the most important source of power followed by professional position. The differences in the ranking between the respondents in the two villages reflected different social realities in both communities: In one village the level of education was higher while in the other the influential figures in the community were proprietors. However, the respondents in the two villages agreed that professional position was a relatively important source of power. Administrative and political positions were reported by respondents in both villages as the most influential among the jobs. The second most powerful position, according to the respondents, was work in local councils followed by that in public goods departments. Respondents also reported that development process was impacted the level of concentration of power sources, the severity of conflicts in the community, and the extent to which figures of power use their influence to their advantage. The researcher concluded that there was a connection between the establishment of local power structures and the process of development and its changes.

Enhancing the Role of Local Leadership in Rural Development by Dr. Abdel Basset Mohamed Al Sayad.

The administration system in rural Egypt is based on locally elected councils that are responsible for the management of their communities. This is a good framework for involving local leadership in the development of their communities. The aims of this study were to determine the effectiveness of local councils in different governorates in Egypt, and identify the problems

that members of these councils confront and which impede the effectiveness of their work. The study was conducted in four governorates: Al Munufia, Al Menia, Alexandria, and the New Valley. A sample of 500 members representing 47 local councils was randomly selected from these governorates. Interviews were conducted with 20 members. The findings of the study indicated that: The work of the council members mainly consisted of enhancing the level of services provided to villagers, proposing ways of involving the local people in the council's work, working towards the social and economic development of the village through specific projects, and supervising on-going development programs. There was a positive correlation between the level of effectiveness of the council member and his or her qualifications, level of training, and work experience. Third, the main obstacles that diminished the effectiveness of the local councils were: lack of trained members, lack of sufficient opportunities for members to take part in council discussions, the inability of members to secure the participation of villagers in their work, and lack of coordination between villagers and local executive branches.

The Values of Rural Societies and the Possibility of Development by Dr. Hoda Mohamed Al-Gangihi and Dr. Abdel Shafie Azzam.

Values play an important role in the development and modernization of a society because they direct the behaviors of individuals and are the significant factor behind their adoption or rejection of new ways of life. The aim of this study was to examine to what extent individuals in rural communities adopt values that enable and enhance the process of development. The values that the researchers examined, in particular, were: family planning, knowledge and education, trust in government bodies, work ethics, saving and investment, protection of environment and development of resources, social participation and belonging, the construction of settlements in the desert, guided consumption, and achievement. The study was conducted on a sample of 153 individuals from the village of Shabramant in Giza, upper Egypt. The chosen sample included young and old males and females who ranged in age between 17 and 80. The findings of the study indicated that the individuals in the sample reported varying degrees of adoption of the values in question. On the one hand, they scored high on the values pertaining to knowledge and education, family planning, work ethics, saving and investment, guided consumption, and achievement. On the other hand, they reported low level of trust in government bodies and limited level of social participation. In regard to the values of protection of environment and development of resources, the scores of most of the respondents were medium.

c. Childhood Issues:

In addition to being one of the first 20 countries worldwide to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Child in 1989, the Egyptian government has undertaken concrete efforts to provide adequate care for children, help them reach their potentials, and to protect them from deprivation, abuse, and violence. The government's five year development plan that was launched in 1997 included a childhood component that asserted the state's commitment to the promotion and protection of children's rights. Moreover, the government declared the period between 2000 and 2010 period as the Second Decade for the Protection and Development of the Egyptian Child. Governmental efforts to ensure the welfare and protection of children have involved legislating specific laws for the protection of children and implementing child-oriented developmental projects in the fields of health care, education, and community development. On the one hand, these efforts translated into visible improvements in different aspects of the living conditions of Egyptian children. For example, the survival rates for infants have increased and immunization coverage is almost universal. Furthermore, primary school enrolment has risen to 96.1% nationwide and the infrastructure of school buildings has been improved. On the other hand, the realities of Egyptian children still reflect a variety of problems that undermine their development and protection such as inadequate health care and education, child labor in abusive workplaces, and violence in the street and in different institutions. For example, the school enrollment for children in rural areas, particularly girls, remains very low. According to the 1996 Multiple Indicator Survey, 30% of girls in rural areas are not enrolled in schools. Also, the level and quality of health care that is available to many children are still inadequate. Child labor remains to be a significant problem that impacts children. Although different surveys of child labor disagree on the prevalence of the problem nationwide, they concur on two main issues. First, child labor is more prevalent in rural areas. Second, the working conditions of child laborers, both in urban and rural areas, are abusive. For example, according to 1999 survey of working children in Greater Cairo, children in the labor force worked an average of 9 hours a day and more than 6 days a week. Moreover, many worked without identity cards or health certificates and one third of them complained of bad treatment in the work place. Street children are another highly vulnerable group of children who suffer deprivation and violence. Moreover, the approaches of law enforcement authority towards street children were punitive. Lastly, children with disabilities are another group of children who are subjected to different forms of marginalization. This group comprises 8% of the total population of children nationwide. In addition to social stigma, children with disabilities suffer from lack of adequate care and rehabilitation services. In fact, a

significant percentage of these children became disabled due to a health problem that was unattended to (e.g. according to 1999 survey two thirds of children with hearing-related disabilities reported suffering from ear infection prior to their disability and one third of children with vision-related disabilities reported prior eye infections). This is an illustration of how different problems in the field of child care and protection are interlinked and have serious impact on the lives of children.

Researchers, policy makers, and advocates working in the field of development and children agree that there are several main venues through which the welfare and development of children can be assessed, namely, health care, education and development of children's potentials, and the availability or lack of a protective environment that is free from violence and abuse. The studies summarized in this section examine different aspects of the welfare, development and protection of Egyptian children in the above-mentioned realms. Some of the important issues that are investigated in these studies are: the living conditions and problems of vulnerable groups of children such as street children, working children, juvenile delinquents, and children with disabilities. Other significant topics that are researched in these studies are the socio-economic impediments to development of children and the challenges they encounter in some areas of education such as vocational schools. The shortcomings and benefits of traditional and innovative health care approaches towards childhood illnesses are also analyzed.

Three Major Aspects of Underdevelopment: Poverty, Poor Environmental Conditions, and Childhood Deprivation: A Case Study of Al-Salam District, Cairo by Dr. Karim Badr El-Din Hassanien and Mr. Nabil El Leithy.

Not many researchers and social scientists take into consideration the synergistic linkages between the many dimensions of development. In the district of Al-Salam in Cairo, where this study took place, three major challenges to development are ubiquitous: poverty, poor environmental conditions, and child deprivation. The aim of this study was to identify the main parameters of these three main aspects of underdevelopment in the district. Al-Salam is a densely crowded district that is divided into four areas, three of which are residential and the fourth has crafts workshop and a poultry farm. The total population of the district is 366,565, with an annual growth rate of 2.8%. The researchers administrated structured questionnaires to three random samples drawn from the district. The first sample was of 100 families representing the population in the area. The second sample was of 25 children representing the population of children working in workshops in the area. And the third sample was of 25 owners

representing workshop owners. The main findings of the study were: First, provisions of health services and utilities that were available in the district were inadequate. Sixty-nine percent of the families fell in the low-income category with an average monthly income of EP 338 (less than US\$100). The dire economic conditions of these families were compounded by the fact that the majority of the sample did not receive subsidies of any sort and possessed no income-generating assets. Second, the environmental conditions in the district were unsatisfactory. The residential areas suffered from pollution because of the workshops, the poultry farm, and local garbage. Inefficiency of garbage collection services caused piling of garbage, which attracted mosquitoes. As a result, most of the residents suffered from infectious diseases carried by mosquitoes. Third, 84% of the children in the district (84%) were both enrolled in the formal education system and working outside the house. All school dropouts in the family sample worked and supported their families. 20% of the working children in the sample were illiterate and 40% withdrew from the primary stage. The working conditions of these children posed danger to their health. They were subject to severe noise pollution and air pollution from auto exhaust and paint chemicals. Also the children worked between 10-15 hours. The wages of the children were extremely low: the average monthly income of the working child was EP 94, of which EP 89.5 went to the family. The researchers concluded that there was a need for an integrated approach to the development of Al-Salam district that would take into account the interrelated problems and needs of the population in the district.

The Impact of Family Breakdown on Male Street Children: The Case of Suez and Port Said by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ma'boud Morsy.

The purpose of this study was to research the relationship between family breakdown and the causes and development of the problem of street children in Suez and Port Said. Through the use of questionnaires, field reports, statistics, and official documents, data was collected from 300 street children and their families. The findings of the study showed that: First, 52% of the children were in the age group of 12 to less than 15. A little over a third of the sample did not go to the school. Second, factors related to family break down such as separation between parents, disagreements between them, death of father or mother and uncaring step parents were the main reasons why children left home for the street. Third, 34.67% of the families of street children lived in one-room flats; 25.67% of the flats were on the ground floor and were made of sand and cement. Illiteracy rate, low education level and unemployment were high among the parents of the street children. Lastly, the study also showed that half of the sample was

originally from towns outside Suez and Port Said while the other half came from the study sites. This pointed to the impact of immigration on the increase in number of street children. The researcher recommended intervention programs to support families that suffered from separation between parents, the improvement of the living conditions of such families, and the enhancement of social welfare activities and institutions that protect vulnerable children.

An Evaluation of the Health Conditions of Street Children in Cairo by Dr. Maha Ghobashi, Dr. Maissa Shawki, and Dr. Iman Al Tahlawi.

The aims of this study were to examine the health conditions of street children and the impact of their living conditions on their health. Two hundred street children were examined in cooperation with Al Amal village society (NGO) which offers day care for street children. The research team used a questionnaire to collect quantitative data. Social aspects were handled by social workers and medical aspects by physicians. Six focus group discussions were held with the children. Blood samples were also drawn from the children to test for different forms of diseases. The findings of the study showed that: most of the children worked in irregular jobs such as serving at homes, doing seasonal work, etc. The majority of the children slept in the street or their work place. Half of the children reported having health problems such as road accidents, violence, beating, and dog bites. Only half of these children went to care centers to receive medical care. The majority of those who went to these centers were satisfied with the health care they received. The majority of the street children smoked and some (7.6%) took drugs such hashish. A third of the children were sexually active and 54% of the girls in the sample got pregnant. Finally the medical examination showed that all the children were below the normal weight for their age; the majority had low levels of hemoglobin; a third of the children had high levels of salt in their urine and 17% of them had parasitic diseases. Also 43% of the children had high levels of lead which reflected the level of air pollution they were being exposed to.

The Role of Government and NGOs in Addressing Problem of Street Children by Hope Society Team.

The aims of this study were to: 1) identify efforts by governmental and non-governmental institutions in addressing the problem of street children, 2) identify the obstacles that such institutions confront in their efforts, and 3) formulate an action plan to address the problem. Interviews, observations

and questionnaires were used to collect the data. The study sample consisted of 6 governmental institutions and 6 NGOs in the following governorates: Cairo, Giza, Qalioubia, Alexandria, Menya, and Assiut. Data was collected from 45 staff members in NGOs and governmental institutions. The main findings of the study were: The majority of the street children who benefited from the services of the institutions were boys (58%). A large percentage of the employees in these institutions (48.5%) had a BA degree in social work. Supervision and control were the main tasks that were carried out by these institutions. Other tasks included holding collective and individual meeting with the children, designing special need-based program for the children, paying home visits to the families of the children, and conducting research activities. The most common problems that the staff members faced were related to the behaviors of the children and involved problems of aggression, disobedience, and lying. A large percentage of the employees believed that the best way to deal with the problems of the children were to offer them guidance, show them acceptance, and communicate with them. Methods of handling children among the employees ranged between reward and punishment. The results of the study also showed that 25 governmental organizations and 14 NGOs cooperated with organizations that looked after street children. The Organization of Delinquents was reported as the most prominent among the governmental organizations, while Caritas Egypt in Alexandria was reported as the most important among the NGOs. Communication and cooperation between different organizations were weak. This sometimes resulted in duplication of programs. Insufficient funding was another main problem that these different institutions faced. The institutions depended largely on public donations and the assistance of ministry of social affairs. The managers of the institutions ranked legal/judicial terms and age conditions of children as the first factor that they took into account in the selection of children to be enrolled in their institutions. This factor was followed by absence of mental diseases in the children. Family disintegration and absence of a criminal record had equal ranking (16.6%). The researcher recommended the establishment of a network of NGOs and governmental organizations that work with street children to share information and coordinate their activities. This recommendation was implemented and the network was formed under the auspices of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

Street Girls: Reasons and Outcomes by Dr. Abla El Badri.

Street girls in Egypt are a relatively new phenomenon and seem to result mainly from the disintegration of the family and its inability to play its social role in raising children. The aim of this study was to investigate the factors

that lead girls to run away from home and the problems they face on the street. A random sample of street girls who frequented the Rod El Farag Center of the Association of Al Amal Village was selected. Girls in the age group of 9-15 was chosen because they were in the transitional stage between childhood and adulthood during which they began to experience pressures that pushed them to the street. A random sample of parents of street girls was also selected in order to identify patterns of behaviors and relations within the families. Interviews, case studies, observations, and questionnaires were the main tools used in the collection of the data. A sample of social workers, psychologists and policemen who worked with street children was also interviewed. The findings of the study showed that; Families that produced street children were mostly found in poor neighborhoods and slum areas. The education level of most of the families of the children in the sample was low; illiteracy was 46% and the percentage of family members who had minimum literacy skills was 42%. Many parents had negative feelings about the fact that their children (both girls and boys) ran away from home. However a significant percentage of parents (18%) were indifferent that their daughters left home. The indifference could be explained by the desire of some parents to ignore the problem and the resignation of other parents whose sons and daughters ended up on the street because of the socioeconomic conditions of the family. Fifty-two percent of the parents said that peer pressure pushed their girls to the street. Other reasons that were given by the parent were separation of parents, cruelty and negligence on the part of one parent, death of a parent and economic problems. Sixty percent of the parents said that police campaigns were the most serious risk that their daughters faced on the street, followed by sexual harassment, injuries and diseases, drug use, and violence. Forty-eight percent of the girls in the sample said that lack of good treatment from their families was the main cause that led them to run away from home. A fewer percentage said that their desire to meet basic needs such as food and clothing was the cause of their becoming street children. Eighty-five percent of the girls said that currently they did not want anything from their families, which means that the girls had accepted the street life. But a significant percentage of the girls still desired good treatment from their families. This finding suggested that the girls wanted to return to their families if they were ensured a safe and supportive family life. The majority of the girls identified policemen as the category of people that treated them badly, followed by relatives, shopkeepers, and then ordinary people. Sixty-four percent of the girls reported that physical violence was the main problem they faced on the street, followed by police campaigns, sexual exploitation, and then diseases. Also, the girls ranked the following as the most common activities that they carried out while living on the street: playing, doing nothing, selling small items to earn some money and buy

food, begging, buying drugs, and running away from the police. The advantages that some of the girls attributed to street life were: a sense of freedom and playing. Finally the girls varied in their views on their future prospects: While 22% suggested returning home, 18% felt hopeless that their situation could change. Few girls thought that marriage might be a solution, while others thought they might find a shelter where they could live on a permanent basis.

The Social Presence, Protection and Care for Children Working in Agriculture by Dr. Hassanein Kishk and Mr. Mahmoud Mortada.

Child labor is a critical social problem worldwide. In Egypt, child labor is concentrated in the agricultural sector. In fact, the share of rural areas of child labor ranged between 75-80% during 1986-1992. Also, child labor in rural areas tends to increase during specific seasons when demand for labor more than doubles. The overall objectives of this study were to contribute to the production of knowledge on child labor and to facilitate community intervention in order to find solutions for the problem. The researchers examined the following aspects of child labor: 1) the population and class characteristics of children working in the agricultural sector on the macro and micro levels, 2) reasons for child labor in agriculture, 3) conditions and terms of child work in this sector, and 4) the need of working children for protection and care. A purposive sample of 200 children (105 male and 90 female) were selected from Menia and Dakahlia since these governorates had high rates of working children. In the selection of the sample, the following factors were taken into consideration: age, patterns of work, gender, values, and cultures. Questionnaires and interviews were used in the collection of data. The researchers found that: Working children less than 11 years old accounted for 82.5% of the sample. Slightly over twenty-five percent of the children engaged in pesticides-related work. This was a violation of the provisions of Child Law stipulating that children under age 15 should not take up jobs and also that children under age 18 should not take up jobs that harm their health. Second, children were often employed through contractors who had long been involved in the business of recruiting workers for agricultural activities. This also was a violation of Article 20 of Law 137 which prohibits the employment of laborers through contractors. Furthermore, the study showed that children earned low wages: 81.2% of the working children in Dakahlia earned EP 5 a day while 71.9% of those in Menia earned EP3-4 a day. Also, the working hours of the children showed that they suffered from high level of exploitation. Forty percent of the children worked 6-9 hours a day and more than 18% worked nine hours and more a day. Also, the majority of the children in the sample were not paid for

any vacation, weekly breaks, or official holidays. The kinds of labor that the children carried out involved: picking cotton or cotton worms, moving and cultivating crops, feeding animals or taking them out for work, cleaning barns and weeding seeds. Children mostly worked and lived in the same agricultural environment. Lastly, the researchers reported that the most serious risks that the children faced during their work were: injuries incurred from use or exposure to pesticides, using sharp tools, extreme heat or cold weather. The children also contracted diseases such as schistosomiasis and ascarid. Moreover, measures undertaken in cases of injury were either nonexistent or inadequate.

The Abuse of Working Children Who Drop Out of School: A Descriptive Clinical Study of their Personalities by Ms. Fatma Mohamed Al Zahir.

The aims of this study were to: 1) identify the abuses that working children suffer from, 2) determine the main features of the personality of a working child, 3) identify the factors that lead to children dropping out school and joining the labor force, and 4) contribute to the efforts to address the problem of working children. Data for the study was collected from two groups of children: the first group consisted of 70 working children from different jobs and working areas. The age range of the children in this group was 9-13. Also this group was selected from children who dropped out of primary school and had been working for at least two years. The second group consisted of 120 children enrolled in primary and preparatory schools. The findings of the study showed that: working children were exposed to both physical and emotional abuse. Examples of physical abuse were beating, imprisonment, inflicting burns on the child, while emotional abuse included insults, threats, negligence, mocking, etc. Furthermore, working children exhibited personality problems that non-working school-going children did not suffer from. That is, the non-working children had healthier and more functional personalities than the working children. Unlike the working children, they exhibited self-reliance, a sense of freedom and belonging, and better social skills. Also, working children, unlike the children in the second group, lacked a sense of psychological balance. The researcher concluded that joining the labor force exposes children to many dangers and forms of abuse such as repeated beating and insults, which have negative impact on their personalities and social skills.

The Role of Community Development Association in Providing and Fulfilling the Working Child Needs by Dr. Zainab Moa'wad El Bahi.

Several studies on child labor show that this phenomenon is caused by difficult family circumstances such as modest income, large family size, and inadequate living conditions. The situation requires the collaboration of the government with NGOs to address the problem. Five centers for child, family, and employers' care have been established in Tersa Village in Fayoum governorate to offer services to working children. The aims of this study were to: 1) identify the educational, health, and social services that these centers offer to children, and determine the availability of the services and the problems that may prevent children from accessing these services. A questionnaire was administered to 103 male children in the Center for the Welfare and Development of Working Children in Tersa Village. The main findings of the study showed that: The majority of the children in the sample (68%) were in the age group of 15-18. Over the third of the children belonged to families that had nine members and earned a monthly income of EP100 - EP150. Seventy-six percent of the fathers of the working children were illiterate. Also a large majority of the children (81%) dropped out of school at the primary stage and started working. Most of the children said that they began to work to contribute to the family income, and they spent 6 to 8 hours at work. Carrying bricks was the most common work that most of the children did. Seventy-five percent of the children joined the center more than 10 months ago and visited the center 5 to 7 times a week. The researcher assessed the services offered by the center as follows: The center helped children form new friendship and helped them have somewhat better relations with their employers. However, the center did not contribute to any substantive changes in the children's family and work conditions. The children received meals at the center and the majority of them were satisfied with the quantity of the food. The center also offered literacy classes to the children. Ninety-five percent of the children went to the literacy classes; however, there was a high rate of drop out as well. Also, the children received medical check up and treatment. Furthermore, a large number of the children participated in sports activities organized by the center. The researcher concluded that while the center was providing valuable services to working children, it needed to pay more attention to the families of the children, extend its services to girls, and focus on vocational training for children given their desires to learn new crafts.

Violence among School Pupils: An Applied Study in Maadi Educational Directorate by Mrs. Maha Khairalla and Mr. Khaled Sadek.

The goals of this study were to: 1) identify the social and psychological reasons that contributed to violence among school pupils as a way of self defense and regaining rights, 2) identify the roles of school principals, social workers, and teachers in addressing the problem of violence, and 3) determine the role of the pupils' family in enhancing his/her violent tendencies. A sample of 15 schools affiliated to Maadi Educational Directorate was chosen, covering all educational stages. This particular directorate was chosen because of its proximity to the Developmental Program for Women and Children, an NGO that worked on child protection and community development. All the sampled schools were public governmental schools. One thousand and one hundred interview questionnaires were distributed: 1000 to girls and boys in different stages of education; 50 to school officials and another 50 to the families of the most violent pupils. The findings of the study showed that: bad relationships between pupils and their families contributed to student violence. Also if the family atmosphere was tense, it was more likely that the child resorted to violence. Nonetheless, the majority of the sampled children reported that they had very good relations with their families. Children also reported that the way teachers dealt with pupils inside school affected the latter's personalities and reflected on their behavior both inside and outside school. Fifty-five percent of the children reported that teachers in their schools offered pupils guidance, counseling and love. However, the study indicated that 18.% of the teachers used violence and abused the children. In case of a severe violent punishment on the part of the teachers, 55.8% of the children said that they reported it to the principal, 12% of the children reacted violently and 6% committed acts of sabotage against the school with the help of peers. Most school principals believed that family breakdown, child neglect, the impact of mass media, and misuse of leisure activities contributed to the problem of violence inside schools. Principals also reported that severe punishments such as expulsion from school added to the violence of pupils. Teachers, on the other hand, reported that there was need for laws that protected them against student violence and limited the privileges granted to pupils in order to maintain the balance of power between teachers and students.

Violence in the Egyptian Society: Reasons and Social Services to Limit it by Mrs. Soha Kotb Osman.

The purpose of this study was to identify the views of students, faculty, and staff members in high schools and universities. A questionnaire was administered to 100 pupils in the third secondary school and 100 to senior university students in Alexandria. Also, interviews were conducted with a group of 8 faculty and staff members in secondary schools for girls and boys as well with 15 faculty and staff members in the faculties of commerce, engineering, and education at Alexandria University. The results of the study showed that: The majority of the student sample pointed out that the family played an important role in developing violent behavior among children. More than half of the university students reported the prevalence of violence among their peers. Also 38% of the secondary school pupils pointed to the prevalence of this problem among their peers. Slightly more than twenty-five percent of the student sample reported that verbal violence, like the use of bad language, was the most noticeable form of violence. However, a third of the female university students reported that physical violence was more prevalent. The majority of the students believed that economic reform policies as well as mass media also contributed to violent behavior since they believed that the former led to unemployment and the latter exposed the public to violent visual materials. A majority of the student sample also reported that the role of the social worker in their educational institution was unclear and ineffective. Lastly, forty three percent of the students reported that there was an important aspect of violence that was linked to extremism. Students differentiated between the verbal and behavioral forms of extremism and of violence. Also forty percent of the students believed that there was a difference between fanaticism and violence. Students also reported that there was sometimes a public conflation of rigidity and fanaticism but not between rigidity and violence.

Evaluation of the Role and Impact of Social Care Institutions for Juvenile Delinquents by Mrs. Abeer Mohamed Mahmoud Badran.

The aims of this study were to examine the role of social institutions in rehabilitating, educating and training delinquent adolescents, and to identify the problems that these institutions encounter. The study was implemented in three institutions in Cairo. A random sample of 90 respondents was chosen, with 30 respondents from each institution. The age of the female respondents ranged from 12 to 21 and that of the boys from 12 to 18 years. The findings of this study showed that: Delinquents were not properly classified into different categories inside the social care institutions, which

created problems in the type of programs offered to them. Accommodation amenities such as food, clothes, sleeping beds, or water were not sufficient or adequate. The production and training programs inside these institutions failed to absorb the workforce and energies of the delinquents. Also, the literacy programs offered in these institutions were not compulsory and effective. Lastly, the results of the study showed that workers in such institutions were ineffective and lacked expertise. Moreover, the workers often resorted to humiliation and corporal punishment to discipline the delinquents. The researcher concluded that institutions for juvenile delinquents needed to be completely transformed in order to meet their intended purpose of providing social care and rehabilitation for the delinquents.

The Human Dimension in Designing Social Care Institutions for Children at Risk of Delinquency by Eng. Maha Abdel Satar.

The aim of this study was to determine to what extent the architectural design of social care institutions for children at risk of delinquency take into consideration the human needs of these children. The study was conducted in six social care institutions. The researcher made use of a combination of data collection methods such as interviews, questionnaires, observation, taking pictures, and landscaping. The main findings of the study showed that: the architectural design of these institutions reflected an enclosed and restrictive atmosphere rather than a healthy living environment for the children. The sleeping quarters of the children were crammed. The children also lacked space where they could carry out a variety of daily activities such as watching TV, studying, painting, reading, etc. Because of lack of space and the closed structure of the institutions, children tended to get into fights with one another. Lastly, the researcher also found that all six institutions did not have psychiatrists or separate rooms where children could receive psychiatric therapy or assessment. The researcher recommended that social care institutions for children at risk of delinquency be designed in a way that provided the children with separate living units where they could move freely while still being supervised. Also the researcher recommended that the outer design of such institutions be appealing to children and reflective of a sense of an open and supportive atmosphere.

The Efficiency of the Adjusted Constructive Model with Multimedia to Control the Hyperactivity of Pre-School Children and to Improve Some of their Cognitive Processes by Ms. Manal Maghazi.

Studies have shown that a substantial proportion of school children suffer from hyperactivity, which has negative consequences for these children and their classmates. The aim of this study was to examine the effectiveness of the educational model which the researcher designed in controlling the hyperactivity of pre-school children and improving some of their cognitive processes such as attention and memorization skills. The model, called the adjusted constructive model, was based on Jan Piaget's constructive theory of knowledge and made use of a computer-based multimedia technique. The study was conducted over a period of four months on a sample of 30 children between 4 and 6 years of age. The sample was divided into control and experimental groups with an equal number of children in each. During the period of the study, the children in both groups were exposed to the same educational materials, however, the adjusted constructive model was used only with the children in the experimental group. The findings of the study showed that the use of the adjusted constructive model increased the attention level of the children in the experimental group and decreased their hyperactivity and impulsiveness. Consequently the learning process of the children in the experimental group was significantly enhanced by the use of the model.

A Guidance Program to deal with the Behavioral Problems of Students Transferred from Primary to Vocational Education, by Ms. Mona Talaat Rashad.

Students in the preparatory stage of vocational education have particular problems that are not encountered by students in other schools. These students often join vocational schools after having failed repeatedly in the primary or preparatory stages in non-vocational schools. Moreover when these students join the preparatory stage in vocational schools, they are often in their teenage years, which in itself is a difficult and challenging time in their lives. The aims of this study were: 1) to identify the behavioral problems that students in the preparatory stage in vocational schools suffer from, and 2) design a guidance program that would help the students in this stage overcome these problems. The study was conducted in a preparatory vocational school in Cairo on a sample of 100 students. The findings of the study showed that: both male and female students exhibited behavioral problems such as aggression, lying, stealing, hyperactivity, stubbornness, and defiance. After the implementation of a guidance program in which

students were exposed to a good and supportive educational environment, their earlier behavioral problems diminished. The researcher recommended the following: First, it was important to identify the characteristics of students who are able to continue their education in vocational schools. Second, it was necessary to encourage students to finish high school and then join vocational institutes rather than limiting their education to preparatory vocational schools. Third, teachers in preparatory vocational schools needed to be well-qualified and trained so that they are able to reach their students who normally tend to be unmotivated and defiant. Lastly, the researcher emphasized the need for well-qualified and effective social workers in such schools so that they could help students adjust and deal with their behavioral problems.

Researching the Obstacles towards Achieving the Goals of Preparatory Vocational Education in Light of Development and Labor Market Needs

by Mr. Ihab Amin, Mr. Muawad Abdel Gawad, Mr. Mahmoud Abdallah, and Mr. Abdel Fatah Abdel Azim.

In 1989, the Egyptian ministry of education issued the Decree 209 regarding establishing vocational preparatory schools. The purposes of these schools were twofold. First, they were meant to provide a viable alternative to students who repeatedly failed in regular junior high schools and were facing the danger of becoming school drop outs. Another major goal of the vocational preparatory schools was to provide students with a kind of education and vocational skills that would make them equipped to join the labor market successfully. Nevertheless, the current reality of vocational preparatory schools is one in which many of these educational institutions are ineffective. The aim of this study was to investigate why vocational preparatory schools were unable to provide an effective education and vocational training that would help their students meet the needs of the labor market. The study was conducted in three vocational schools in Beni Souif governorate: a boys' school, a girls' school, and a co-ed school. Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, observation, and focus group discussions were used to collect data from a sample of teachers and administrative staff (a total of 120 school staff members) as well as 203 students. The researchers also conducted in-depth interviews with owners of vocational businesses and staff members at local NGOs that provide loans and technical support to young graduates who run small enterprises. The main finding of the study was that: The selected schools were providing poor quality education and very little vocational training to students. This problem was caused by a combination of factors that were linked to the general approach towards vocational education in the society, the lack of school

resources, the low level of teachers' motivation and the socioeconomic backgrounds of students. The overall educational system implemented in the three schools was very poor; school days were unstructured and students were not given opportunities to apply the theoretical knowledge they were taught. Moreover, there was serious shortage in necessary school resources such as equipment and space for vocational training. Also because of the prevalent view of the inferior status of vocational education, the teachers were demoralized and unmotivated. They complained of the procedure of transferring teachers from regular to vocational schools as an act of demotion, which re-enforced the low value that is attached to vocational education even by senior officials in the ministry. The average age of the students in the sample was 17. Sixty percent of them lived in urban areas and 40% lived in rural areas. The majority of the students came from families of low socioeconomic background: Most of the fathers worked as manual laborers, while some worked in agriculture. The majority of the mothers were illiterate. The average family size was 10. The attendance rate of students in the sample was very poor. Most of them came to school 2-3 times a week. The majority worked either for their families or in other kinds of manual labor. The labor of the children discouraged them from attending school. Other factors that affected their school attendance were lack of structure in school activities, the poor level of education, and inadequate school resources. Because of the poor level of education at these schools and the irregular attendance of the students, the illiteracy rate among students was 63%. Neither students nor their families felt that the former learned adequate vocational skills from the school. Nevertheless, students continued to come to school-albeit irregularly-because they felt that their status as school- enrolled students gave them a somewhat positive social value especially in front of their friends and other youth who dropped out of school. Also, the students said that they wanted to get a school diploma because it would raise their social standing in the future even if the education at school did not provide them with actual vocational skills. Lastly, the researchers found that there were no venues of cooperation and coordination in place between vocational schools in the governorate on the one hand, and business owners and local NGOs on other hand.

Patterns of Accidents among Children and Prevention Programs in Ismailia Governorate by Dr. Hesham Ahmed Fathy El Sayed.

Despite the tremendous advances in the treatment of child diseases, child mortality resulting from accidents and injuries remain on the rise. These accidents are particularly prevalent in developing countries. The aims of this study were to: 1) identify the patterns of accident cases that were treated in

Suez Canal University Hospital in Ismailia, and 2) determine the health care that was provided to those injured in accidents. During the four months of the study, the records of 1361 accident cases treated in the hospital were reviewed. Also a random sample of 1303 students who suffered from accident injuries were selected from 5 different preparatory schools in the governorate. The age range of the students was 11-18. The main findings of the study were as follows: Children and students were among groups that were most susceptible to having accidents. Boys were more likely to have accidents than girls (72% and 28% respectively). The most common injuries among students were falling, road accidents, and burns. While male and female students suffered equally from falling and road accidents, women were more likely to suffer from burns. Most student injuries took place in the street, in public areas, or at home. School students constituted the largest number of patients that received hospital treatment for their injuries. In fact, 37.4% of student absences from the sampled schools were due to injuries. This was more prevalent among female students than male.

The Effectiveness of Training Programs for the Development of Adjustment Behaviors of Children with Down Syndrome by Mr. Ihab Fathy Abdel Khadir.

The aims of this study were to: 1) identify the nature of adjustment challenges that children with Down Syndrome confront, 2) shed light on the importance of training these children and developing their adjustment skills, and 3) contribute to the comprehensive plan of improving the adjustment behaviors of children with Down Syndrome by designing a training program that would fulfill this goal. A sample of school children with Down syndrome was chosen. All the children in the sample were enrolled in the same school. Their age range was 9 -12, and their I.Q range was 50-70. Also all the children had poor adjustment skills. The sample was divided into an experimental and control group. A training program for the enhancement of adjustment skills, designed by the researcher, was used with the experimental group. The researcher measured the adjustment skills of the children in both groups before and after the implementation of the training program. The findings of the study showed that the children in the experimental group exhibited significantly improved adjustment skills after the implementation of the training program. The researcher concluded that the enhancement of the adjustment skills of children with Down syndrome requires: using stimulating educational materials and emphasizing cooperative team-based play activities in educational settings for such children, as well as ensuring that their family environment is supportive of

them. This could be achieved by training the parents on the most effective and positive ways of interacting with their children.

An Applied Evaluation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Approach in Alexandria by Dr. Sabah Mohamed Abdel Hamid.

In 1995 the World Health Organization in coordination with the UNICEF introduced the integrated management of childhood illness approach to confront the main causes leading to child mortality worldwide. This new medical approach involves making diagnoses using simple clinical kit and providing treatment that makes use of preventive medicine as well as regular medication when necessary. The aims of this study were to: 1) measure the extent to which the integrated management approach is implemented in Alexandria, 2) contrast the effectiveness of the new approach and that of traditional ones, and 3) determine the perspectives of health care providers and mothers on the new approach. The study samples included: health care providers, 200 children receiving integrated treatment as well another 200 children who were receiving traditional treatment methods. Both samples of children and health care providers were drawn from different hospitals and clinics in Alexandria. The results of the study showed that: Health care providers who made use of the integrated management approach reported that its most significant benefits were: cooperative relationships between mothers of the sick children and their doctors or health care providers, good preventive treatment services, low costs of health services, and better health awareness among parents of sick children. Mothers whose children were treated according to the integrated management approach were more satisfied than those whose children received traditional treatment methods. They reported that the main advantages of the new method were: good medical check up, low costs of health care, and supportive and helpful medical team. Mothers whose children were treated by traditional methods, on the other hand, complained of the unavailability of medicine, the long waiting periods, and the crowdedness of the clinics where their children were receiving care. However, there were some shortcomings to the new system. Health care providers complained of having more work load and the challenges of dealing with mothers who were unconvinced with doctors' prescription of preventive treatments such as warm liquids rather than cough syrups.

Psychological Variables and Health Habits Related to the Exposure of Children to the Environmental Tobacco Smoke of their Smoking Parents by Hoda Elshennawy.

The focus of this study was to identify the health problems that children of smoking adults suffer. The researcher examined the health conditions, psychological characteristics, and learning achievements of children aging between 9 and 12. The researcher also examined the beliefs of smoking and non-smoking parents about their motives for smoking and the consequences of their smoking habit. The sample size was 200 pupils; 100 children of smoking parents and 100 of non-smoking parents. The sample was equally divided between boys and girls. The main findings of the study were as follows: The ratio of children suffering from cough and asthma was higher among children of smoking parents. The learning achievements of children of smoking parents were significantly lower than those of non-smoking parents. Also children of non-smoking parents displayed higher psychological consistence; they showed lower self-esteem and a relatively pessimistic view of life. It was also found that smoking was more prevalent among parents with lower income and education level. Most of these parents reported that they were motivated to smoke by several factors such as: friends, ease of obtaining cigarettes and psychological problems. The researcher recommended further research work on the effects of in-door and out-door exposure of children to passive smoking. In addition, the researcher proposed establishing social and psychological programs for children of to help them overcome the negative effects of their exposure to passive smoking on their learning achievements.

D. Health Issues:

Good access to adequate health care and the eradication of the social causes of health inequities are important indicators of development. As part of its comprehensive plan for the multi-layered development of the Egyptian society, the government embarked on a long-term health sector reform program in 1996. This program, which would last between 15-20 years, involves reforms in health care services, human resources, health sector infrastructure, health care financing, health sector institutional development, and pharmaceuticals. This has led to some significant progress in the availability and access to health care. For example, 95% of Egyptians now live within 5 kilometers of a health care facility. Government expenditure on the health sector has increased in the past decade although it still remains quite low relative to international standards. Moreover, some of the physical

environmental conditions that are conducive to a healthy life style are becoming more available for an increasing number of the population; ninety-two percent of Egyptian households, for instance, have access to safe drinking water and ninety-seven percent of the population have access to sanitary means of excreta disposal. Access to water and sanitation in rural Egypt, however, remain the lowest nationwide. In addition to government-sponsored health units, there are a variety of privately-owned health clinics that are sponsored by non-governmental organizations and individual owners. Despite these different forms of progress in the field, the health sector still confronts several serious problems that are shaped not only by the paucity of resources and the costs of health care but also the challenges of dealing with the social determinants of poor health care and health inequities. Large segments of poor Egyptian still have difficulty accessing adequate and affordable health care. For example poor women are the least supported social groups in the health care system. Moreover, expenditure on private health care institutions, which are not accessible to many poor people, is significantly more than that on public health care. Some of the social factors that impact the level and quality of health care are: lack of effective training among health care providers, the low level of health awareness among patients and their families, and negative and flawed attitudes towards certain health problems such as infectious diseases, disabilities, addictive drugs, and breast cancer.

The studies in this section examine different health issues in urban and rural communities in Egypt. The studies research a variety of topics such as: the health care of disabled population groups, mental patients, victims of road accidents, the elderly, patients of viral liver infection such as Hepatitis C disease, and patients with drug addiction problems.

Using Group Service to Socially Rehabilitate Schizophrenic Patients: An Applied Field Study in El Nabawi Mohandis Psychiatric Hospital in Alexandria by Dr. Noha Sadi Ahmed Magazi.

Schizophrenic patients have a right to a good life, like other members of their societies. In order to live their lives to the fullest, these patients and their families can make use of group service programs. This program is based on helping schizophrenic patients develop different skills that will make them more independent in their daily lives and facilitate their social participation. The patients are helped to develop these skills in group-based sessions that are run by a specialist in a democratic and supportive environment. The aim of this study was to assess the effectiveness of group service program in the social rehabilitation of schizophrenic patients. The study was conducted in Al Nabawi Mohandis Psychiatric Hospital in Alexandria using two groups of

patients: a control group of patients that were not enrolled in group service program, and an experimental group of patients that were enrolled. The patients in both groups were compatible in their socioeconomic status, educational level, and the length of their stay in the hospital. The findings of the study showed that there was a positive correlation between enrollment in the group service program and the patients' acquisition of skills pertaining to personal care, housekeeping, and development of social relations.

The Inclusion of the Visually Impaired in the Egyptian Society by Ms. Doaa Mabrouk.

The aims of this study were to: 1) establish an integrated model to enhance the participation of the visually impaired in different arenas of public life, 2) assess the effectiveness of the education and rehabilitation that are provided to the visually impaired, and 3) to distinguish the needs of the blind and those with weak eye sight and highlight the necessity of training the latter in using what is left of their sight in the most possible ways. This study is based on an integrated and comprehensive model of health care. This model combines: eye care, education, and rehabilitation. With the use of interviews and questionnaires, data was collected from a sample of students from schools in Misr El Kadima, directors of NGOs and youth centers, and the heads of social programs at churches and mosques. Interviews and field visits were also conducted in motherhood and childhood centers. The main findings of the study were as follows: Schools do not admit blind students. Also students who suffer from weak eye sight are often undiagnosed. Motherhood and childhood centers do not carry out medical activities to address the problem of blindness or offer preventive care for eye problems. The blind and those with weak eye sight do not access any services at youth centers. The sampled NGOs provide limited services to the visually impaired, which consist mostly of dispatching medical groups to local communities. However, the results of the study showed that it is mostly the elderly who benefit from this medical service. Also, the mosques and churches' services to the visually impaired did not exceed offering limited monetary help to their families. Lastly, teachers and students exhibited a combination of positive and negative perceptions of the visually impaired and their needs. On the one hand, teachers were reluctant to include them in classes with other students who did not suffer from disabilities because they thought the former would be at disadvantage and may be ridiculed. Students in the primary stage, on the other hand, expressed willingness to help their visually impaired classmates. The researcher concluded the services that were currently available to the visually impaired were

inadequate and did not enable their inclusion and active participation in the society.

Societal Rehabilitation Programs for the Disabled through Development Societies by Dr. Abdel Hamid Kabesh.

There is a big gap between the needs of the disabled and the services that are available to them. Most of the rehabilitation services in Egypt are offered in institutions and rehabilitation centers that are based on the notion of charity rather than social development. The strategy of societal rehabilitation aims at the development of the society, the availability of rehabilitation to all the disabled who need it, and the active involvement of the disabled in their local communities and the larger society. Local organizations that work in development projects can play an active role in these efforts. The aims of this study were to: 1) examine how these local organizations perceive disability within the framework of development, 2) identify the obstacles that impede these organizations from being involved in societal rehabilitation programs for the disabled, and 3) identify the ways through which societal rehabilitation programs can be carried out by development organizations. The study was conducted in 17 local development organizations in the governorates of Menia, Al Gharbia, and Cairo on a sample of 360 staff members. The findings of the study showed that: Only three organizations were offering services to the disabled. These services included training, awareness, rehabilitation, and financial assistance. The number of disabled people who benefited from these services was 30 in one organization and 6 in another. The main reasons why most of these organizations failed to provide services to the disabled were: lack of funds, resources, and expertise. The respondents also exhibited a generally low level of knowledge of disabilities and the needs of disabled people. For example, a third of the respondents could not define the meaning of a disability and were unable to identify different kinds of disabilities. Also a significant percent of the staff members (22.6%) could not define the meaning of rehabilitation process. Furthermore, the number of representation of the disabled people on the boards of these organizations was very small. Yet the majority the staff members in these organizations agreed that there was a link between disability and development and that inadequate care for the disabled hindered social development. The researcher concluded that there were several important steps that needed to be taken in order for these organizations to be actively and effectively involved in rehabilitation programs for the disabled. These steps were: the inclusion of development organizations in the national planning of societal rehabilitation programs for the disabled, the support of centers and

organizations that are currently providing these programs, and the development of public awareness on both local and national level of the disabled, their needs, and the significance of rehabilitation programs.

New Patterns of Drug Use among the Youth: Ecstasy and Rave Parties in Egypt by Dr. Nashat Hussein.

Drug use is one of the main social problems that the Egyptian society confronts. The danger of this particular problem lies in its direct link to the youth, who are the most important human resources and the foundation of the development process. The aims of this study were to: 1) explore, describe, and analyze the problem of the use of the drug 'ecstasy' by young people who go to rave parties (wild music parties), 2) design and develop an integrated program that can be implemented through Childhood Lovers Society, an NGO that works on combating problems of drug use and addiction among the youth, and 3) hold a workshop to present the findings of the study to the representatives of organizations that work on combating drug use and addiction in Egypt. The researcher conducted interviews with twenty young people who go to rave parties and consume 'ecstasy.' The twenty respondents were chosen through the snowballing technique. The researcher also attended several rave parties. The main findings of the study were: The majority of those who were consuming 'ecstasy' were young (i.e. in their teens or early twenties). The consumption of the drug was closely associated with particular kinds of parties to which these young drug users went to. These were parties known in the Egyptian Arabic language as 'haws' (rave) parties in which the drug users listened and danced to techno music. The respondents reported that the kind of music played, the colorful clothing they wore, and their consumption of 'ecstasy' were all interlinked and helped create a particular world in which they felt happy, sociable, and uninhibited. Also, this world that was created through rave parties and drug use was confined to young people of upper or upper middle class. The main sources of information that young people received about these parties were: friends, emails, cell phone text messages, posted flyers in social clubs, and magazines that were distributed in private language schools. Lastly, the respondents shared the opinion that the advantage of 'ecstasy' was that it was not addictive and that its side effects were not serious. The researcher concluded that addressing drug problems among the youth require developing the awareness of involved parties (e.g. the youth, their families, and law enforcement authorities), and establishing effective communication between the youth and other sectors of the society.

The Determinants of Physical and Psychological Health and the Life Style of the Elderly in Egypt by Dr. Gomaa Sayid Youssif.

The goals of this study were to: 1) identify the health determinants of the elderly, 2) identify the life style (i.e. health habits) of the elderly from different social sectors, and 3) compare and contrast the health conditions and needs of the elderly living with their families and those in nursing homes. A sample of 501 elderly people was selected for the purposes of this study. The age range of the respondents was 50-99. The sample consisted of two groups; elderly people who lived with their families and those who lived in nursing homes. The individuals in the first group were selected from the membership list of 7 social clubs, while those in the second group were chosen from 9 nursing homes. The numbers of the male and female respondents who lived with their families were 132 and 176 respectively, while those in nursing homes were 76 and 126 respectively. The findings of the study showed that the physical health of the elderly could be correctly determined on the basis of their life style and level of education; while their psychological health could be determined by the social support they received as well as their level of education. The respondents who lived with their families exhibited better physical health than those in nursing homes. Female respondents, regardless of their place of residence, led healthier life style than men. The male respondents exhibited better occupational skills than the female. The female respondents who lived in nursing homes had better occupational skills than those who lived with their families. Male respondents who live with their families also exhibited higher mental skills and better psychological condition than those living in nursing homes. Female respondents suffered more from depression and anxiety than the male regardless of their living conditions. Also there were no significant differences between the percentage of female respondents in the two groups, who suffered from depression and anxiety. The researcher concluded that the kind and level of health care provided by nursing homes needed to be greatly improved and developed. In particular, the mental health care of the elderly needed to be developed and enhanced.

Trachoma and Prevention-based Intervention Efforts: An Exploratory Study in Fayoum Governorate in 2002. by Dr. Gamal Ezz Al Arab.

Prevention of the contraction of trachoma can greatly curtail the number of those who become blind, particularly among the poor. The aims of this study were to: 1) determine the level of prevalence of trachoma in Fayoum, and 2) identify the suitable mechanisms that would lead to long-term behavioral changes among population groups that were susceptible to

contracting this disease. The study was conducted in 25 villages in Fayoum since the governorate is known to lack services in the field of optical medicine, particularly for trachoma patients. Data was collected in two phases. In the first phase, interviews were conducted with the governor, staff members at the Cultural Affairs Institute, UNICEF personnel, and officials at the Ministry of Health. In the second phase, a sample of 1500 individuals was drawn from the designated villages. The sample included children and adults. A medical examination was administered to 1353 individuals in the sample (475 adults and 878 children). Four hundred and twenty children received treatment after the medical examination. The main findings of the study were: The percentage rate of the contraction of the disease among the children was 47%, while among the adult sample the rate of contraction was 37.7%. Several environmental factors contribute to the severity level of the disease such as its prevalence among children, the lack of separate pillows for the patients, the use of uncovered areas for urination and defecation, the shared living spaces between families and their animals, and cooking food in sleeping quarters. The results of the study also indicated that a high percentage of the children and their families use water from public pipes, which expose them to a higher risk of contracting trachoma. Also, although 40% of the sample had heard of the disease, not many had correct knowledge of the ways the disease was contracted. As a result the research team conducted an awareness workshop that was attended by 150 individuals, most of whom were females.

Towards Controlling the Spread of Viral Liver Infection through Barbers and Hairdressers in Assiut by Dr. Etemad Al Sharif.

Wrong hygiene practices result in 8-16 million cases of liver infection, which is considered one of the most serious diseases in the Middle East. Hepatitis B and C are considered the two leading causes of fatal liver infection and liver cancer. In fact, in Egypt the contraction rate of Hepatitis C is 13%. The most common ways of transmitting this disease are through blood transfusion, contaminated medical equipment and sexual intercourse. However, the disease has been known to be transmitted also through contaminated tools used by barbers and hairdressers. The aims of this study were to: 1) determine the extent of the transmission of the disease through barbers and hairdressers, 2) identify the practices of barbers and hairdressers that enable the transmission of the disease, and 3) design an intervention program that targets those who work in barbershops and hairdressers'. A random sample of 100 barbers and hairdressers was chosen. The sample also included 140 shop owners and workers in 86 barbershops and 14 hairdressers'. Interviews, questionnaires, and

observations were used in the collection of data. The findings of the study showed that: Most of the barbers and hairdressers demonstrated low level of awareness of the disease and the ways in which it is contracted and transmitted. Slightly over nine percent reported that some of their customers were cut while they were getting a hair cut. The researcher noted that most of the individuals in the sample could not distinguish between sterilizing and merely cleaning the tools. Although the shops themselves were found to be clean, workers did not regularly clean their tools with soap and antiseptic substance. Also the workers did not regularly wash their hands with soap and antiseptic substance after finishing with a customer and before serving another. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the cleaning practices of the workers in barber and hairdresser shops tended to facilitate the transmission of viral liver infection. Accordingly, the researcher designed and distributed pamphlets about the disease to the customers and workers in the selected shops.

Hospital-Based Surveillance of Injuries in the Suez Canal University in Ismailia, Egypt by Dr. Hesham El-Sayed, Dr. Fatma Hassan.

Injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in Egypt and the main cause of hospitalization. The aim of this study was to investigate the pattern, risk factors, circumstances, and hospitalization of injured patients attending the emergency room of Suez Canal University in Ismailia governorate. Data was collected on every patient with injuries in the emergency room of the hospital during 4 months of the year 2000. The sample included all patients who were treated in the ER and discharged, or admitted to the hospital. Data on the patients and their medical records were compiled from their hospital records. Information gathered included injury circumstances, external causes, and the nature of trauma sustained. The main findings of the study were as follows: During the period of the study, 1361 patients attended the emergency room, comprising 8% of all emergency patients treated in the hospital. About 18% of injury patients were admitted to the hospital, comprising 8% of all admitted patients. Mean age of injured individuals was 25 ± 15 years with 42% less than 20 years of age. The most common causes of injuries were stabs, cuts, and road accidents. The most commonly sustained injuries were cuts, fractures, contusions, sprains, brain concussions, and burns. The researchers concluded: 1) that injuries constitute a large proportion of cases treated both in outpatient and inpatient units at the hospital, 2) children and young adults were frequent victims of injuries, and 3) information on causes and circumstances of injury were poorly recorded.

Designing a Database for Road Accidents in Cairo Ambulance Department by Dr. Mohamed Ali Seif El Din.

Cairo Ambulance Department is one of the vital public facilities. However, it lacks effective methods of information recording, thus diminishing the efficiency of the organization. The aim of this study was to design a computerized database that would help the personnel in the Ambulance Department better serve the injured on road accidents. The study was conducted in all 85 branches of the Cairo Ambulance Department in addition to the main control room in the headquarters office. Different types of vital information were sorted in the format of a computerized data base. This information included place of accidents, description of accidents that relate to the location, the speed with which an ambulance vehicle was dispatched to the accident location, the number of ambulance vehicles, and the number and kinds of injuries. A sufficient number of the workers in the department were trained in the use of the new data base. With the use of the new computerized data base, the results of the study showed that: The highest rate of road accidents took place on Thursdays. Most accidents were reported by people in the accident location and through the use of cell phone. Misr Ismailia Highway had the highest number of highway accidents. The average time that it took for an ambulance to arrive at the location of an accident was 5.68 minutes. Nineteen percent of ambulance vehicles were used in attending to road accidents. Males constituted 82% of the injured in road accidents. Also the age group of 21-25 had the highest number of those injured in road accidents. The researcher concluded that the designed data base was useful in providing vital information to the Ambulance Department. He recommended using the data base in all branches of the department nationwide, updating it as necessary, and providing training to the personnel in department offices in the correct and effective ways of using the data base.

E. Social Development:

Scholars working on development issues agree that there is no exact definition of development. Rather it is a complex and multi-layered process that aims at the well-being of people and widening their choices to have a healthy life, acquire knowledge, and access resources. The essential link between economic and social development is at the center of this process. But how can we define social development? It clearly entails several issues and takes place on multiple realms within the community. On a basic level, social development is about equitable access to health, education, and employment. On another level, it is about building the capacities of individuals for active participation not only in the economic sphere but in the

political process and in civil society. Social development also involves the embracing of values that would enable individuals and local communities to achieve progress and equitable distribution of resources within the structures of important institutions such as the family, the school, the workplace, and the political sphere. Such values would include: good work ethics, respect for the rule of law, trust in government institutions, accountability, gender equality, and tolerance towards social groups of different political affiliations, religious faith, or ethnic backgrounds. Lastly, the approaches and the mechanisms through which knowledge in its different forms is developed and acquired by individuals and communities are also central to the issue of social development.

To what extent and in what ways has Egypt achieved social development? And what challenges does it confront in this process? The studies in this section address these questions from different perspectives and focuses. Some of the studies address the issue of knowledge and values and their role in social development. These studies examine the acquisition and articulation of different forms of knowledge in the Egyptian context such as the social knowledge and the religious consciousness of Egyptian youth from different backgrounds, the development of scientific knowledge in sociology departments at different national universities, and the kinds of environmental knowledge that teachers have or need to promote sound environmental awareness and practices. Other studies address the presence or absence of particular values in the Egyptian society which impact the process of social development. For example, one of the studies examines the meaning and practices of tolerance among different sectors of the society. Also, some of the studies deal with the interplay of certain factors such as globalization and hidden economy on the social development of Egyptian communities. Lastly another important aspect of social development that is examined in one of the studies is the significance and challenges of organized volunteer work that is carried out by local non-governmental organizations.

The Social Values of the Residents of Squatter Areas: A Field Study in Al Razaz Area in Manshit El Nasr by Nagla Farghaly Abdel Aal.

Squatter areas in Egypt are characterized by the low socioeconomic conditions of their residents. The difficult living conditions in these areas may encourage or discourage the residents to adopt social values that pertain to work, family life, education, etc. The aim of this study was to examine the social values that were adopted or not by the residents and that could be linked to their living conditions in these areas. The values that were examined were work ethics, private ownership, dominance of

materialistic values, and love of investment. The researcher also investigated the prevalence of family values, educational interest, and political awareness and participation among the residents. The study was conducted in Al Razaz area in Cairo on a sample of 300 individuals (52% male and 48% female). The majority of the respondents were married and were in the age group of 20-29. The findings of the study showed that: Only 1% of the individuals in the sample had a university degree. Ninety-four percent of the sample worked in the informal sector and the majority of the female respondents were housewives. Forty eight percent of the respondents were satisfied with their jobs; female respondents reported more job satisfaction than the male. There was no correlation between job satisfaction and the kind of job held. On the other hand the main cause that was given for lack of job satisfaction was the irregularity of the work. Most of the respondents in the sample wanted to own agricultural land or real estate. In fact, fifty five percent owned their apartments while 7% were sharing apartments with other individuals or families. While 35% percent of the respondents asserted that money was the most important thing for a good life, significant number of the respondents ranked peace of mind and health as more important than money. The majority of the respondents expressed keen interest in investing money in income-generating projects. The most popular projects were opening a grocery or clothes store. In fact, 57.9% of the respondents made efforts to start an income-generating project; men were more inclined than women to start a business. It was found that the majority of the respondents had very little privacy in their apartments because of the large number of individuals living together. Male and female siblings often shared the same sleeping areas and in some cases husbands and wives did not have their own separate rooms. Although the majority of the respondents reported that two was the suitable number of children for a married couple to have, almost 40% of the respondents had more than 3 children. A large percentage of the sample reported that they preferred to give birth to boys because they believed that sons would be more help than daughters in supporting the family. The more educated the respondents were, the less likely they were to prefer sons to daughters. The majority of the respondents asserted the importance of getting an education; 65% of the respondents who had school age children sent them to schools despite their low income. The respondents reported that getting an education was important because it enabled the individual to read, write, and learn regardless of whether or not one was able to use his or her education in getting employment. Also, most of the respondents did not differentiate between their sons and daughters in accessing education. However, 41.% of the respondents did not favor the female members of their families joining the work force. Lastly, the majority of the respondents did not vote, which

indicated very weak political participation. Moreover, only 2.9% of the sample did not do any volunteer work for their local communities.

The Social Effects of Globalization: A Comparative Study of Different Social Groups in the City of Menia by Dr. Hanan Atef Kishk.

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of globalization on the abilities of individuals from different social strata to meet their basic needs in light of the diminished role of the government in providing social welfare to the citizens. With the use of social survey, three samples from lower, middle, and upper classes were selected. Case studies were also used to collect more in-depth data from some of the families in the three samples. The study was conducted in three areas in the city of Menia on a random sample of 250 families. The main findings of the study were: the buying abilities of the majority of the lower class respondents diminished in light of the free market policies and the subsequent increase in prices. This was also true of a large percentage of the middle class. Although the majority of the low class respondents owned food ration cards, the benefits from these cards were very limited. High living expenses led most low class respondents to spend most of their income on food and this led to a decrease in the family expenditure on education. Also the educational services that were available to the lower class respondents were very inadequate: classrooms in public schools were crammed and the quality of education was very poor. This resulted in high percentage of school drop outs and illiteracy in this sample; 12.9% of the children of the lower class respondents were uneducated. Although there were no illiterate children in the middle class sample, sixty percent of the respondents in this group also reported that they had inadequate educational services and subsequently the families were incurring additional costs in order to provide private tutorials to their children. The burden of the additional costs of education was a problem that was also prevalent among the wealthy respondents. On the other hand, 65.6% of the respondents from the upper class reported that they were financially capable of meeting all their basic needs despite the sky rocketing prices of commodities. The majority of the respondents from the lower and middle classes reported that the health services that were available to them were inadequate. Also the respondents reported their lack of options in the kinds of health care that they could access. The results of the study also showed that the rate of unemployment among the lower class respondents was 59.7%. This led 35% of the respondents from this class to hold marginalized low paying jobs in the informal sector. The majority of the respondents from the low and middle classes reported that in the last ten years their material conditions had deteriorated, while most of the

respondents from the upper class reported that they had been able to improve their living conditions because of the multiple sources of family income. Almost 70% of the respondents from the lower class were not able to increase their family income because of their lack of skills and adequate education. Ninety-four percent of the respondents from the low class said that they felt that they lacked the skills that were necessary for qualifying for jobs that were advertised in newspapers or magazines. This was also the problem for 58.9% of the respondents from the middle class. Because of their poor material conditions, the majority of the respondents from the lower class reported encountering many crises such as high prices of commodities and services, lack of government subsidy for health care, unemployment or irregular employment. The main strategies used by respondents from the three samples included borrowing money from family members, neighbors, or friends, selling household appliances or home furniture, or saving money jointly with a circle of friends or relatives (gamia). The most common strategy among the respondents from lower class was cutting down family expenditure particularly on food. For example respondents from this class often did not buy meat and consumed mostly carbohydrates and starch foods since they were cheaper. Also, the lack of material assets was an obstacle that respondents from the lower class faced when they needed to obtain bank loans. The main strategy that was adopted by respondents from the upper class was saving money through a group (gamia) of relatives or friends. In fact, the higher the socioeconomic level of the family the more opportunities there were for them to save money. Also the higher the educational level of the family, the better were their coping strategies. The ways of life that were prevalent among the respondents in the three samples reflected some similar and different influences and values. Ninety seven percent of the respondents from the lower class never used the Internet, while the majority of the respondents from the middle and upper classes did. Casual dress wear was common among the youth in the three samples although the respondents from the upper class tended to buy imported clothes. Globalization also led to a change in the pattern of consumption in different social strata. Sixty percent of the respondents from the upper class owned cell phones and considered them as indispensable. Also, sixty two percent of the respondents from the upper class purchased commodities that they had no need for. Western songs were very popular among a large number of the respondents. This was particularly true of respondents with higher social and economic level; 73.8% of the respondents from upper class preferred listening to these songs compared to 21.4% and 9.1% of respondents from middle and lower classes respectively. The majority of the respondents in all the three samples reported that social relations had become weak and shallow in the era of globalization and that they personally did not have enough time to spend with their families. The

researcher concluded that in these times of globalization the poor had become more marginalized and the rich were more able to benefit from the positive aspects of globalization and adjust to its negative effects.

The Psychological Analysis of Volunteer Work in Egypt, by Mr. Khaled Abdel Fattah Abdallah.

Volunteer work is one of the main determinants of civil society. The characteristics of the volunteers, their perspectives, and their class backgrounds are reflected in the structure of civil society. Also the strength of civil society is derived from the strength and compatibility of the relationships between volunteers and the political system on the one hand and the patterns and interests of volunteer work on the other hand. The reality of volunteer work in Egypt shows that it suffers from serious problems such as low level of awareness of the importance of volunteer work among the public and the weak capabilities of organizations that do this kind of work. The aims of this study were to identify: the structural features of volunteer work and its functions, the interplay of age, social class, and regional background in this kind of work, the nature of the relationship between volunteer members and an organization, and the output of volunteer work as well as the level of its effectiveness. The study was conducted in Giza and Cairo governorates. A sample of 30 local non-governmental organizations (15 in each governorate) was selected. The selected organizations were varied in the kinds of activities they carried out. Ten volunteers were chosen from each organization with a total of 300 volunteers. The main findings of the study were: The majority of the volunteers in urban areas were females, while more men than women were involved in organized volunteer work in rural areas. It is to be noted that in the selection of the sample, faith-based local organizations (i.e. Islamic or Christian organizations) were excluded. Yet, the results of the study showed that a good number of Christian individuals carried out volunteer work. This indicated that religious faith was not a significantly differentiating factor in volunteer work. The majority of those who did volunteer work were in the age group of 20-25 and were holders of a university degree. Also the majority of the females were single. The families of most of the respondents had political awareness and voted. The results also showed that there was a significant statistical difference between urban and rural areas in regard to the interest of respondents in volunteer work (the difference was in favor of the rural areas). Also a higher percentage of the families of the volunteers in rural areas voted in elections than those in urban areas (76% and 55% respectively). The majority of the respondents were introduced to volunteer work through friends. Most of the volunteers found support from their

families in the work they did. However, the majority of the respondents did not receive any training when they started work and this affected negatively the quality of their volunteer work. This was more of a problem in rural areas. The most common volunteer work were as follows: community service, followed by social care while the least common volunteer work was that related to human rights issues. In rural areas, volunteer work that was geared towards social care was more common while activities that were aimed at development were more prevalent in urban areas. The majority of the respondents exhibited a medium level of altruism (i.e. giving priority to others and their welfare). Also a large percent of the respondents reported a low level of trust in social institutions. The least trusted institutions were those that were funded by foreign parties. Lastly, the respondents displayed a significant level of tolerance towards others.

**The Social Effects of National Projects on the Structure of the Society:
A Field Study in Damietta Port** by Dr. Sherif Mohamed Awad.

The purpose of this study was to examine the social effects of large national projects such as the establishment of Damietta Port. The researcher investigated: 1) to what extent the project created job opportunities and supported individual and group participation, 2) the discrepancy in the social effects of the projects between the rural and urban areas, and 3) the main problems that selected communities in the study encountered because of the project. The study was conducted in 4 districts in Damietta on a sample of 500 people. Questionnaire-based data was collected from the all the individuals in the sample and in-depth interviews were conducted with 20 of these respondents. The findings of the study showed that: In the last seventeen years the Damietta Port Project created a lot of job opportunities because of the size and the variety of jobs that were needed to be filled inside and outside the port. Consequently, unemployment rate went down considerably in Damietta. Still the new job opportunities were not distributed evenly. In fact the majority of these jobs were consolidated in the hands of residents of other governorates, particularly those who lived close to the workplace areas. Therefore, unemployment was a problem that many young graduates confronted. Because of the businesses and job opportunities created by the port, the rate of immigration to Damietta from other governorates reached 60%. There was some improvement in the living standard of most of the workers in the port because of the increase in their incomes. For example, most of the families of the workers in the port owned electric household appliances. The results of the study also showed that the workers in the port enjoyed a high social status in the community. Other occupational groups also benefited from the project such as

merchants whose businesses flourished ; truck drivers who worked in the transport of the goods, and carpenters who benefited from the imported lumber that was transported to the port. Women constituted 30% of the workforce in the port. Despite the many benefits of the port, it created some problems. For example, there was no equity in the distribution of the job opportunities created by the port. Some interest groups controlled the administration of work at the port. Also, the port diminished the significance and scale of other kinds of labor in the area such as: agriculture, carpentry, and the manufacture of furniture. The port also affected the infrastructure of rural areas which led to an increase in agricultural land. Finally, the presence of the port led to a high level of air and water pollution.

Including the Disabled in the Development Process by Ms. Naglaa Abdalla.

The focus of this study was to incorporate the disabled into the process of development by linking their needs and problems to the issue of development. The aims of the study were to: 1) identify the basic needs of the disabled, 2) examine the services that governmental and non-governmental organizations offer to the disabled, and 3) examine the role of the media in supporting the issues that are pertinent to the disabled. The study was conducted in the governorate of Gharbia on a sample of 200 individuals who have hearing and speaking impairments (125 male and 75 female). The age of the disabled in the sample ranged between 14 and 31. Questionnaires and focus group discussions were used to collect data from the sample. The main findings of the study were: First, the majority of the individuals in the sample had great difficulty using public transportation, accessing services at government offices, and using facilities such as public parks and movie theaters because most of these public spaces were not adequately equipped to be easily used by the disabled. Therefore the majority of the sample reported that they lived a secluded life and felt uncomfortable establishing social relationships with people who did not have disabilities. Second, many in the sample reported that it was difficult for them to find work because workers in most workplaces did not understand sign language. The majority of those who worked reported that they were unhappy with their work because of their poor relations with their superiors and their inability to adjust to their workplace environment. Also those who worked often gave their wages to their families and thus were deprived of a sense of financial independence. The individuals in the sample also reported that there were not sufficient and adequate organizations that could provide them with the services and the training they needed in order to live a productive life. The researcher concluded that many disabled people live on

the fringe of the society because there is not public awareness of their needs or any adequate services for them.

Developing the Environmental Attitudes and Skills of Female Teachers of One Class Schools by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Gawad Shaban.

Environmental education is extremely important to promote values and attitudes that are necessary for the protection and conservation of the environment. Environmental education is particularly important in one class schools that are common in densely populated areas where residents are deprived of adequate and sufficient educational services. In such schools the teachers are the main element and the foundational base of the educational process, and their environmental awareness, attitudes, and skills become considerably important. The aim of this study was to develop the environmental attitudes and skills of female teachers in one class schools in Fayoum governorate. Fayoum was chosen because it has a high percentage of one class schools. The study was conducted in 71 schools in one of the districts in the governorate. A control group and an experimental group of female teachers were formed with a total number of 80 (40 in each group). The age range of the teachers was 22-28. The teachers in the experimental group were enrolled in a training program to develop their environmental attitudes and skills. The findings of the study showed that after the end of the training program the teachers in the experimental group exhibited significantly better environmental knowledge and skills than those in the control group. Also, the researcher found a positive correlation between the level of environmental knowledge of the teachers and their environmental attitudes.

Evaluation and Development of Literacy Programs at Hope Village Society, Moqattam by Hope Village Society.

The Arab Network for Illiteracy Eradication and Adult Education reported that there are 73 million illiterate individuals in the Arab World and that 12 million children in the age of compulsory education are outside the formal schooling system. In Egypt, illiteracy remains to be a serious problem. The main objectives of this study were to: 1) measure the impact of literacy programs applied in the centers of adult education in Moqattam area in Cairo, and 2) measure the impact of literacy programs through the use of computers in Hope Village Society. A random sample of students was chosen with consideration to the age group and the socioeconomic background. The sample was divided into two groups: a control group of ten students in

literacy classes at the Adult Education Center at Al Moqattam in the age group 15-46, and an experimental group of ten literacy students in Hope Village Society at Al Moqattam in the age group 15-45. The literacy school of the Association of Hope Village in Moqattam was selected because it accommodated residents of old Cairo and slum areas and at the same time offered computer literacy classes. Therefore, the students in the control group were enrolled in traditional literacy program, while those in the experimental group were enrolled in a computer-based literacy program. The main findings of the study were: Most of the students in the control group were 40-45 years old. Forty four percent of the students in this group believed that literacy classes were adequate while 39% thought the classes needed development. Most of the students in the experimental group, on the other hand, were in the age group of 20-25. Some of the students in this group who attended the literacy classes frequently were married women. Seventy-five percent of the students in the experimental group thought that the use of computers in the classes was helpful because it made the teaching material easier and more interesting. The results of the study also showed that there were significant differences between the performances of the students in the control and experimental group; with the latter showing more progress. The female students who received computer literacy classes, in particular, showed considerable improvement in their literacy skills.

Tolerance in the Egyptian Society by Mr. Ashraf Abdel Wahab Abu Farag.

The purposes of this study were to: 1) measure the extent of the tolerance of Egyptians and the relationship between their degree of tolerance and their cultural, economic, and social capital, 2) identify the nature of the prevalent perspectives on tolerance in the society, 3) explore the nature of tolerance as practiced in the society, and 4) identify any changes that might have taken place in the meaning and practices of social tolerance in the society and the causes of these changes. The study was conducted in Munufia, Assiut, and Cairo governorates. In Munufia and Assiut, two samples were selected from urban and rural areas. In Cairo three samples were selected from different social strata. The total number of the respondents in the study was 594 individuals (54.6% male and 45.4% female). The main findings of the study showed that: forty percent of the respondents were youth and 53% were married. Sixty six percent of the respondents were Muslims while 34% were Christians. Forty two percent of the respondents were university graduates. The percentage of the university graduates was higher in Cairo. The majority of the respondents reported a medium level of tolerance. The percentage of respondents who exhibited a medium level of tolerance was higher in Cairo than in the other governorates. The results showed a

relationship between tolerance and education as well as between tolerance and religious faith. The lower the level of education, the lower the level of tolerance. Also, the percentage of the Christian respondents with low level of tolerance was higher than that of Muslim respondents (34.5% and 29.5% respectively). The sex of the respondent did not make any significant difference in the level of his or her tolerance. Also the highest percentage of respondents who reported low level of tolerance was found in the group who worked for their families (51.7%) and those who were unemployed (50.8%). On the other hand, the highest percentage of respondents who exhibited a high level of tolerance was found among business owners (38.5%). The majority of the respondents were most tolerant towards their family members. Also the majority of the respondents were least tolerant towards people who did not abide by religious laws and those who belonged to a different religious faith. Female respondents were more tolerant towards elderly people and children than the males. Most respondents asserted that tolerance was enhanced by love for others and religiosity. A large number of respondents also agreed that certain negative child care practices, such as exposing children to too much TV or to familial conflicts, diminished the tolerance level of the children. Muslim respondents reported that lack of tolerance led to violence while Christian respondents reported that it led to hatred. The majority of the respondents (73.7%) thought that there was less tolerance in the society now than there used to be. Also, most of the respondents gave repression and oppression as the main causes of lack of tolerance.

The Religious Consciousness of Egyptian Youth by Ms. Abeer Amin Farid.

The goals of this study were to: 1) identify the common features and the differences in the religious consciousness of Egyptian youth, 2) examine how this consciousness is shaped and impacted by the kind of education that the youth receive and their social class, and 3) examine the relationship between the religious consciousness of the youth and their social, political, and economic consciousness. Data was collected through administering questionnaires to a purposive sample of 300 Muslim college students from three universities in Cairo: Al Azhar, Ain Sham and the American University. The students were chosen from a variety of departments such as law, humanities, arts, natural sciences, and engineering. The main findings of the study showed that: The majority of the youth exhibited a partial religious consciousness that was based on a literalist understanding of religious texts and lacked a comprehensive, historical, and critical perspective. Most of the respondents did not have a good understanding of religious laws. For

example, 65.5% of Al Azhar students believed that the art of sculpture was forbidden by religious laws because they tied this art form to the pagan religions that were prevalent in Mecca before Islam. Also a large number of the students from the three universities believed that every individual had an inescapable fate that was decided by God and this included the material good that the individual was going to have in this world. The results of the study also showed that a large percentage of the students from the three universities were resistant to adopting an interpretive approach towards religious texts and explanations. For example the students reported that they would accept the explanations of religious scholars of some of the verses in the Quran about natural phenomena and reject those of modern scientists if there was a discrepancy between the two. Also, the religious practices of most of the respondents were confined to religious rituals such as praying and did not extend to doing charity or community work. The distorted aspects of the religious consciousness of the respondents shaped their understanding of some of the social and political issues in their society. For example, some of the students explained poverty as being pre-determined by God rather than by social and economic factors. Also a considerable percentage of the students at the three universities thought that interest rates on bank deposits were forbidden by religious laws. In general on all the issues students, Al Azhar University students exhibited the most rigid approach towards religious issues, while those at the American University (AUC) were more flexible and more able to think critically of religious laws and interpretations. This difference could be explained both by the different kinds of education that both groups of students were receiving as well as their social classes. That is, students at AUC received liberal education that was based on critical thinking while the education system at Al Azhar was based on rote memorization. Al-Azhar students were mostly from rural background and from low or lower-middle class. Students from AUC, on the other hand, were from middle or upper class. Lastly, the researcher found that the main sources of knowledge and influence that shaped the religious consciousness of the youth were the family, then the mosque, and finally the mass media.

The Academic Training of Sociologists in Egypt by Ms. Nafisa Hassan Dessouki.

Knowledge shapes and is shaped by social reality. In other words, knowledge is a human product with historical, cultural, economic, and cultural dimensions. The field of sociology in Egypt is the outcome of the relationship between three parties: the social circumstances in Egypt, sociology as a form of knowledge, and those who work in this field. The aim

of this study was to examine the mechanism of the academic training process in sociology departments in Egyptian universities. The researcher investigated the mechanisms of teaching students and developing academic programs at departments of sociology as well as the problems faced by these departments. In-depth interviews were conducted with a sample of 62 individuals who were a combination of faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students in sociology departments in five national universities. The main findings of the study indicated that: The academic competence of junior lectures and faculty members was poor. This was mainly caused by the lack of important resources such as adequate libraries and opportunities to publish and organize conferences, seminars, and field research. Moreover, all the departments in the study lacked a general policy that aimed at developing their academic programs and faculty members and students. Also there was no coordination between the sociology departments at these universities. Graduate students faced a lot of challenges in their graduate programs starting with their choosing a topic for their research project, writing a proposal, and doing fieldwork. Some of these challenges arose from the poor training that the students received in carrying out these academic activities and their poor foreign language skills. However some of the problems of the graduate students were also caused by lack of important resources such as adequate academic books and references. Also, the relations between faculty members in different departments were very hostile and self-serving. The researcher concluded that the overall deterioration of the value of knowledge and research as exhibited in sociology departments reflected the collapse of these values in the whole society.

The Social Knowledge of the Egyptian Youth by Mr. Ahmed Mousa Badawi.

The focus of this study was to investigate the different aspects of the social knowledge of Egyptian youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds (i.e. different levels of education and from rural or urban areas). The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with 48 young men and women in the age group of 17-27 and from different rural areas and urban areas in the country. The respondents were divided into three groups according to their educational level: young people who dropped out of school, those with medium level education (associate or technical diplomas), and those with university degrees. All the respondents in the first group except for one were male and worked as manual laborers. The researcher examined the social knowledge of the different groups as it was constituted and expressed in three different realms: First, in the youth's relations and interactions with their parents and siblings, Second, in the realm of their local community (i.e.

friends, neighbors, the other sex, and those from different religious faith), and finally in the realm of the larger society (i.e. through participation in the political process and the institutions of civil society and in the political process). The findings of the study showed that: The relationships between the respondents and their fathers tended to be characterized by fear and avoidance on the part of the children and dominance on the part of the fathers. Mothers often mediated between fathers and children but rarely questioned the authority of their husbands. This was more common and true of respondents who dropped out of school. Some of the respondents with medium level of education or university degree had more open and democratic relationships with their fathers. Therefore, the social upbringing of respondents who lacked school education tended to reproduce the same kind of family ethos in the children (i.e. a patriarchal institution in which the father ruled and the mother mediated between children and father). On the other hand, the social upbringing of some of the respondents with education enabled them to have an innovative and critical perspective on familial relationships. Respondents from rural areas had stronger and more intimate friendship relationships than those in urban areas. Respondents with university degrees also placed strong value on their friendships. Most respondents from the three groups also reported having reserved relationships with their extended members of families. Although a considerable number of the respondents in the three groups had romantic relationships with individuals from the other sex, many of them expressed a conservative perspective on the nature of relationships between men and women. The respondents' views about people from different religious faith (i.e. Egyptian Christians) varied in their level of openness and acceptance. While respondents from rural background expressed a sense of caution against Christians and even expressed some prejudiced comments regarding their odor and food, respondents from urban backgrounds expressed a more accepting and respectful view of Christians. For example, they described them as trustworthy and honest. Lastly, the majority of the respondents reported weak awareness and participation in political institutions (e.g. political parties and elections) and in the civil society through organized community work.

Family Pressures as Perceived by University Students: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Families by Dr. Tahani Mohamed Osman and Dr. Amany Abdel Maksoud

The aim of this study was to identify the nature and causes of family pressures as perceived by rural and urban university students. The study also examined the strategies that family members use to deal with these

pressures. Family pressures in this study were classified into three kinds: 1) psychological pressures that individual family members may suffer from and that may impact their relationships with one another, 2) pressures that arise from the kinds of interactions that take place between family members, and 3) pressures that arise from external factors. Data was collected from a sample of 700 university students from different economic and social backgrounds in urban and rural areas. Students were chosen from Ain Shams University and Menufia University, the first being located in an urban area in Cairo and the latter in a rural area. The findings of the study showed that family pressures were more prevalent among students from lower social classes. Also, students from lower classes (regardless of their sex or rural/urban background) were more aware of family pressures than those from upper classes. The researchers designed and administered a counseling program to some of the students in the sample that aimed at helping them deal with family pressures and develop better pattern of interactions and relations with their family members. The results of the program were quite positive. Therefore the researchers recommended that universities provide counseling programs that would identify and assist students who suffer from family pressures.

An Assessment of Urban Conservation Projects in the Arab-Islamic City: Cairo as a Case Study by Mr. Ahmed Sedky.

The aim of this study was to assess the urban conservation projects in Cairo using a conceptual framework that sought to define the current meaning of historic areas and the appropriate conservation approaches. The investigation was carried out through: semi-structures interviews with those involved in urban conservation projects (e.g. planners, design offices, researchers, consultants of Cairo Governorate, Ministry of Culture, etc), discourse analysis of project reports and governmental organizational guidelines discussing approaches and methods employed in the studied projects, and surveys of historical sites. The main findings of the study indicated that: The importance of the cultural meaning of conservation was often overlooked by urban conservation projects in Cairo. These projects often pursued superficial beautification of sites or mere restoration of monuments without taking into consideration the lives and needs of the local communities around the sites and involving them in the conservation projects. Thus, lack of appropriate guidelines and absence of appropriate community involvement were common features of conservation efforts in Cairo. This was evident, for instance, in Mar Girgis area where no appropriate studies were carried out before heavy construction machinery was brought in. Subsequent interventions in the area overlooked the needs

of the local community. For example, wooden screens did not offer the inhabitants enough privacy and an amphitheatre was being used as a playground for goats while trash was dumped in the flower boxes. Also dangerous cracks appeared on the walls of the houses as a result of one of the revitalization projects carried out in the area. In Gamaliya's Al Darb Al Asfar, a pilot restoration project focused on three rare surviving examples of domestic architecture: the houses of Al-Seheimi, Khurazati and Mustafa Gaafar. However the project did not use a comprehensive urban conservation scheme and thus it did not address the degradation of the other houses. The researcher concluded that those involved in conservation efforts should adopt a comprehensive and a community-based approach towards conservation efforts; they needed to think of conservation as a tool rather than an end in itself and to understand that their projects affect not merely walls but also people who have close socio-cultural and economic ties with the areas they inhabit.

Measuring the Total Economic Effects of Hidden Economy in Egypt by Dr. Gabir Mohamed Abdel Gawad.

Hidden Economy consists of complex and interlinked economic activities, some of which are legal and others are not. Examples of legal activities that are part of hidden economy include the barter system used by some rural families and the undocumented fees that are collected by tutors, doctors, engineers, and lawyers. Some of the illegal activities in this kind of economy are drug trafficking, slavery trade, bribery and extortion, and money laundering. The aims of this study were to: 1) measure the size of hidden economy and estimate its illegal activities in Egypt, and 2) determine the size and the effects of money laundry operations that are linked to crimes and illegal business activities. The researcher measured hidden economy in Egypt using two methods, namely, a comprehensive measurement of the economic phenomena (known as the indirect way of measuring hidden economy) and a partial measurement of the components of the phenomenon. The findings of the study were: The varied measurements of the size of the hidden economy in relation to the total local production yielded different figures: 13%-35%, 1%-8%, 1%-69.5%, 3.1%-88.7%, and 3.1%-49.3%). Despite the differences in these figures, all the measurements pointed to the same trend of changes in the size of the hidden economy. The size of the money laundry operations was estimated through measuring the size of drug trafficking and its profits. The estimates of the amount of money laundered through these operations were 174.8-1611.4 EP in the period between 1989 and 1997, which constituted the following percentage of the total local production: 0.06%-2%. The results of

the study also showed that the correlation between hidden economy and labor was positive in the long term since the informal sector was able to absorb a lot of laborers. The researcher also found a negative correlation between hidden economy as an independent variable and indirect tax revenues (e.g. custom taxes, sales taxes, service taxes and property taxes) as dependent variables. This would explain why increase in tax evasion activities led to increase in indirect tax revenues.

4.2 Discussion

From the review of the themes, it is evident that the projects clearly reveal a high degree of societal relevance and demand orientation. Also pertinent and significant is the location specificity which affects the knowledge produced that bears directly on the solutions proposed or prescribed for the local problems. Multidisciplinary teams were formed as a rule in most research projects with a few exceptions i.e. students working on their dissertations. Almost all teams had senior and junior researchers with high representation of women both as principal investigators and team members .

According to the principal investigators of the different projects, there were 44 affiliated to universities and research centers, while 15 were affiliated to NGOs; students accounted for 33 and other government organizations were 2. Almost all projects has a plan for future applications.

As to the geographical location of the research undertaken, the rural upper Egyptian governorates, of Giza, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Minia, Assuit Sohag and Qena, as well as the Delta region governorates of Qalubia, Gharbia, Menufiya, Sharkia, Dakahlia, Behira and Domyat were included. Also represented were the urban governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Ismaillia, Port Said and Suez and the frontiers governorates of North and South Sinia.

Examining the methodological instruments used, there was a mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods. Participatory research methods such as PRA, focus groups, case studies and in depth interviewing were all utilized in addition to surveys.

Capacity building was enhanced at all levels. Improving the skills of researchers, local people or stakeholders, NGO activists and local institutions has been achieved, through competence building, formal training, learning by doing (or getting involved) and gaining insights and know how from senior and expert professionals.

5. Utilization and Replication of Researches

The program “Partnership in Development Research was successful in generating an impressive stock of knowledge. But how is this knowledge different from the scientific knowledge produced by the traditional research? who utilizes this knowledge? And how does it affect the stake holders?

K.N. Nair points out the merits of MMRP’s research by contrasting it to the linear mode of knowledge production followed in the conventional research

programs. He says that in the conventional research “The knowledge produced flows back into the knowledge reservoir and then gets diffused among the epistemic community, while in the MMRP’s, the knowledge production is socially oriented in which the distinction between researcher and non researcher is thin and all stake holders are active in the production and utilization of the knowledge generated”.

Based on this definition and the demand oriented thematic projects, three categories are reflected in the Egyptian Program. The first is the policy oriented projects, the second is the intervention oriented projects and the third is the implementation oriented projects.

We will examine 5 projects in each category to exemplify the different orientations.

5.1 Policy Oriented Studies: The knowledge produced is used in policy recommendations and directives

Case No.(1) The Role of Government and Non Government Organizations in combating the Problem of Street Children.

Street children are a problem that is in focus both internationally as well as nationally. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood has estimated the total number of street children in Egypt to be about 2 million. It is only through combined efforts both of the government and the NGOs working in the field that an effective policy could be devised. Therefore, Hope Village Society undertook a research plan to target 12 association – 6 governments and 6 non governments working in the field of street children. The aim of the study was to assess the type of programs and services rendered by various organizations and the problems and constraints they encountered in delivering their services. A second objective was to ascertain whether any communication channels existed that connected the government and the non government agencies or associations working in the field of street children.

Results from this project reflected upon the basic challenges which both the governmental and non governmental organizations concerned with the street children faced as well as laid the basis for the formation of a grass root network of organizations concerned with street children (12 organizations) under the auspices of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood which in turn produced the launching of a government National Plan of Action for Street Children inaugurated by the First Lady in March 2003 for

the purpose of improving the lot of street children. The focus of the Plan is the rehabilitation and reintegration of street children back into society as well as the changes to the 1996 law that will consider street children as victims and at risk rather than deviants and criminals .

The project shows the cooperation and commitment of both government agencies and non government associations (NGOs) in facing a problem of national concern. Here the partnership formula as well as the multidisciplinary of the teams are evident as well as the applicability component as exemplified in policy directives and national plans.

Case No. (2) The Inclusion of the Visually Impaired in Egyptian Society

Until the present, Egypt has given limited attention to the visually impaired except in the areas of medical and scientific fields. To have the full participation of this group, attention should be given to the social, educational, legislative and political aspects. The objectives of this study were to establish an integrated model to enhance the participation of the visually impaired in different arenas of public life; To assess the effectiveness of the education and rehabilitation that are provided to this group and to distinguish the needs of the blind and those with weak sight and to train the latter group in the ways to enhance their sights. The study used the integrated and comprehensive model of health care. Findings showed that the visually impaired were not admitted to the ordinary schools and those with weak eye sight are often undiagnosed. Motherhood and Childhood Center do not carry out medical activities and there are no services at youth center for the visually impaired. The sampled NGOs provided limited services consisting of dispatching medical groups to local communities.

The researcher concluded that the services available to the visually impaired were inadequate and did not enable their inclusion and active participation in the society. The research recommended that awareness programs be organized, for the detection and treatment of the weak sighted persons. Train teachers on how to deal with individuals with eye sight problems. Train families of the handicapped to deal with their children. Rehabilitate individuals with eye sight problems using advanced scientific methods.

This research project helped articulate the ideas for a second stage where the recommendations were transformed into a program of action currently under implementation through funds from the World Bank and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

This research project was able to reveal the reality about the blind and weak sighted children. It was able to point out the scarcity and the need for services for this group. Another tangible positive result was the advocacy on the promotion and use of the research results to transform the recommendations into an action program, with funds from the World Bank and under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Case No. (3) Trachoma Rapid Assessment and Planning for Intervention

Trachoma is the main cause for preventive blindness world wide. It is a common communicable disease that prevails in under privileged communities with poor living conditions. Particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of trachoma are communities with a high density of flies and poor personal and environmental hygiene. It is evident that trachoma has a definite socio-ecological pattern and is closely linked to conditions of poverty and deprivation. Therefore, behavior and environment that permit trachoma to exit are in need of better understanding. Specific educational messages for communities in Egypt are not well defined and are in need of further refinement.

This study aimed to determine the level of prevalence of trachoma in Fayoum and to identify the suitable mechanisms that would lead to a long term behavioral changes among the populations groups that were susceptible to contracting the disease. The study was conducted in 25 villages in Fayoum since the governorate is known to lack services in the field of optical medicine, particularly for trachoma patients.

Results showed that the disease was prevalent in 47.8% of the children while the rate for adults was 37.7%. Several environmental factors contributed to the severity level of the disease e.g. lack of separate pillows for patients, use of uncovered areas for urination and defecation, sharing of living space between families and their animals and cooking food in sleeping quarters.

A total of 1535 persons (children and adults) received medical treatment. A total of 150 community members attended the sessions for health education. Educational messages were formulated and utilized in advocacy programs.

Final findings and recommendations were utilized by decision makers, Ministry of Health, WHO and other interested bodies for the creation of national plan for trachoma control in Egypt. Also Egypt was included in "Vision 2020, The Right for Sights".

This is one of the projects which was replicated in an action research project in other parts of Fayoum

Case No. (4) Developing and Enhancing the Skills of Fishermen in Edco Lake, Behera Governorate

The idea for this project came as a result of the numerous complains received by the Land Center for Human Rights from the fishermen of Lake Edco in Behera.

The policies that were enforced by the government had wasted great portions of the lake, drying up parts of it or cutting out portions for fish plantation which had a negative impact on the lives of fisherman and their families. In addition the lake was polluted with wastes and dyes from the neighboring factories. A team of multidisciplinary research was formed to study the social economic, ecological and environmental aspects of fishing in Lake Edco.

A survey as well as focus groups were conducted with the fisherman, their wives and children. Also case studies were undertaken.

Results from the study showed that with the help of the Land Center for Human Rights, the fishermen were able to form an NGO of their own to advocate and enforce their legal and economic rights such as social security, insurance and pension. Also, with the help of the fisherman, the Land Center was able to bring to court a modification of the law 124 of the year 1983 pertaining to the fishermen's rights through legal procedures. Another consequence of the study was the formation of a branch of the fisherman syndicate.

Here the success factor was the in depth study of the project, the transparency of the problems and the processes by which the information was gathered, analyzed and disseminated. The empowerment of the fisherman came as a result of the knowledge acquired by the fishermen in regard to their legal and economic rights. The demand here is on the development process with emphasis on reducing poverty and empowering and improving the state of the fishermen.

Case No. (5) The Role of Community Development Association in Providing and Fulfilling the Working Child Needs.

Studies on child labor show this phenomenon is caused by difficult family circumstances, shortage of income, large family size and difficult living conditions.

Five centers have been established in Senoures Markaz in Fayoum Governorate to offer services to working children. This study evaluates the availability of services offered by one of these centers in Tersa village. The objectives of the study were to identify the educational, health and social services offered by the Center to the working children and determine the availability of the services and the problems that may prevent children from accessing these services.

The main finding showed that the majority of children (68%) were of the age group 15-18 years. 81% of children dropped out of school at the primary stage and started working. Most of the children said they began to work to contribute to the family income and spent between 6-8 hours at work. Carrying bricks was the most common work done by the children. The researcher assessed the Center services offered to the children in the following. It helped them have new friendships and better their relations with their employers. But the Center was not able to contribute to the children's family and work condition to any great extent. The food offered and the literacy classes were appreciated by the children, Also the meals, medical check ups and sports, were essential for the children.

The researcher concluded that while the Center was providing valuable services to working children more attention should be directed to the families of these children and more emphasis should be given, to vocational training and crafts preparation. Another important recommendation was to extend these services to girls and not limit them to boys. Also recommended was a health insurance system that would cover all the children in the Center.

The project provided a good assessment of these Centers which were initiated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and are being introduced in other governorates. The Ministry was keen on knowing how these centers performed in Fayoum. The evaluation of the Community Development Association in proving the services needed for the community helped the association in having a stronger voice in demanding more services from the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as clarified the roles and the improvements that could take place in performance of the association.

5.2 Intervention Oriented Studies: The knowledge produced opens up new areas of importance where there is little factual information. Interventions are proposed.

Case No. (1) Towards Controlling the Spread of Viral Liver Infection through Barbers and Hair Dressers in Assuit

Liver infection is considered one of the serious diseases in the Middle East. Hepatitis B and C are considered the two leading causes of fatal liver infection and liver cancer. The rate of contracting Hepatitis C in Egypt is 13%. The most common way of transmission of the disease is through blood transfusion, contaminated equipment and sexual intercourse. It is also known that the disease could be transmitted through contaminated tools used by barbers and hairdressers.

This study aims to determine the extent of transmission of the disease through barbers and hairdressers, identify the practices of barbers and hairdressers that enable the transmission of the diseases, and design an intervention program that targets those who work in barber shops and hairdressers. A random sample of 86 barbershops and 14 hairdressers were selected. Interviews, questionnaires and observations were used in the collection of the data. Findings showed that both the barbers and hairdressers had low knowledge of the disease, the ways it is contracted and transmitted. They also did not distinguish between sterilization and cleaning of tools. Workers did not regularly wash their hands with soap and antiseptic between customers. The researcher concluded that the transmission of viral liver infection could easily take place.

Accordingly, the research designed and distributed pamphlets about the disease to both the customers and workers in the barbershop and hairdressers salons.

A program of intervention was devised to target those shops.

Case No. (2) Developments of Simple Technologies used in Women's Projects in Kafr El Sheik Governorate

Despite the efforts undertaken by the government to extend small and medium size projects throughout Egypt by making available low interest loans for youth and women, the methods and means used are not technically developed.

The goals of this study is to: (1) identify the social beneficiaries of the rural women projects. (2) identify the most popular projects in the local rural units of Kafr El Sheikh Governorate. (3) identify the local environmental resources that were targeted by the project for training rural women in development; and (4) determine the technological gap for the projects most applies by rural women.

Training was conducted with local officials of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The training focused on the technological techniques in order to have a local group that will sustain the projects once the researchers leave.

A manual based on the results of the study was prepared indicating the training material and information required for the beneficiaries of the projects. This manual was given to the Ministry of Social Affairs to be used in replicating these projects in other governorates.

Dissemination was carried out with the villagers by the women representing each different project. This encourages other women to apply since they saw that women just like themselves were able to take loans and complete their projects and repay the loans.

The key factor of success for this project is the participatory approach used which simplified the process of loans. Also the training process which make it easier for the local women to comprehend these simple technologies. the choice of projects were feasible and appropriate for their culture.

Case No. 3 Impact of the Ecosystem Degradation on Farmer's Livelihood on Northern Nile Delta

Agro-ecosystem deterioration in the Northern Nile Delta region caused by serious contamination with industrial and agricultural pollutants was acknowledged by the researchers who have been working in the area. The dire situation of the area prompted the initiation of this project.

The project objective is to investigate the environmental, socio-economic and health inputs of domestic eater contamination from agricultural, industrial and domestic wastes. This is carried out by (a) identifying the environmental factors and major contaminants (b) assessing the health hazard associated with these contaminants and (c) explore the correlation between the socio-economic environmental factors and the health problems caused by the contaminated water.

The methodology used was a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. A questionnaire was devised focusing on the community perception of water related issues. The survey was conducted in 11 villages in Kafr El Dawar and one village in Etay El Baroud district. A total of 620 households were interviewed. Also a micro-level study was further conducted in two villages under several environmental stress. A total of 120 questionnaires were conducted covering 25-30% of the total population of the studies villages.

In the addition to the surveys, the participatory rural appraisal method (PRA) was used to enable the local people to express, enhance, share and analyze

their knowledge of life and conditions. Direct observation, general community meeting, construction of maps and ranking and scoring priorities were also used.

Some of the results of the research pointed out the environmental issues such as the serious problems of disposing the industrial wastes into the main agriculture drain, the lack of sanitation facilities and the accumulation of domestic waste. The health issues the prevalence of water associated diseases such as Kidney and liver dysfunction, asthma skin rashes and cancer. Land productivity issues included the deterioration of land productivity; the disappearance of most vegetable crops, salinization of soil and the use of bad quality drainage water for irrigation.

This project presents a striking case of environmental injustice imposed on village community by industry generated air and water pollution. The pollution created an unhealthy degraded ecosystem which affected the health and livelihood of the people.

All the stake holders including farmers, village residents, industry, NGOs, government officials have all participated in identifying and suggesting holistic solutions. The solutions included, technical, institutional and behavioral factors.

The success factor in this project is the fact that by using the qualitative methodology and holding town hall meeting, inviting the different officials (health, industry, agriculture, water and drainage) to meet with the villagers and the farmers, the research team has acted as a catalyst. This was a useful exercise for it was the first time in which the villagers met the government officials and industry representative to discuss their problems. This produced a collective power to strengthen the existing local civil society to enable them to act as a pressure group which will allow their participation in the local decisions.

The project succeeded to raise the community awareness about the surrounding environmental problems and its reflection on their health status. It also showed them the process by which they could communicate with the government officials.

Case No. (4) Community Based Advocacy to Identify and Reduce Domestic Violence Against Women. A Case Study in An Upper Egyptian Village

There has been a major concern recently towards domestic violence exercised against Egyptian women by academics, policy makers and feminists .Domestic violence is regarded as one of the most profound form of violence against women. It is a major constituent of gender based

violence and is believed to be one of the major and most important practices used affecting the oppression of women. In a study conducted in 1995 on a national representative sample of women ever married between the ages of 15-49 years it was concluded that 3% of Egyptian women reported being beaten by their husbands during their marriage.

Despite its importance, wife beating is very much under reported and under documented, hence its prevalence is underestimated and can only be defined against the back drop of culture, tradition and custom. Interventional studies are also lacking, this study is considered to be the first community based study having a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and interventional approach to the problem.

The basic objective of the project is to strengthen the role of community based advocates and health care providers in identifying and managing cases of violence against women.

Qualitative and quantitative techniques were used to get an assessment of the magnitude and the causes of violence against women as well as documenting the perception of women, men, NGOs and Health providers regarding this practice.

Training of the advocate group (Raedat) and the community health care workers on counseling, advocacy and communication skills was undertaken to better understand the causes and the effects of domestic violence within the culture context.

The study was undertaken in a rural village in the governorate of Beni Suef, Upper Egypt.

The project concluded that although domestic violence will not change over night, a start has been made by the dissemination of the results of the project as well as the participatory approach that was used which opened up the topic, taking it out of the realm of privacy and silence and into the public domain.

Another factor worth mentioning is the fact that the research team was able to interact with all the parties concerned such as the husbands, wives, in laws, clinic personal and health professionals. They also trained the "Raedat" as advocates to form a counselor group to which battered women can turn to thus enforcing the sustainability of advocacy.

Factors of success (1) there was a need for the study as indicated by the women interviewed. (2) Building up trust and partnership with the community people. (3) an advocacy group formed from the village women and trained to take over the counseling activities after the project is concluded.

Case No. (5): New Patterns of Drug Use among the Youth: Ecstasy and Rave Parties in Egypt.

Drug use is one of the main problems that the Egyptian society confronts. The danger of this particular problem lies in its direct link to the youth; who are the most important human capital in any process to achieve sustainable development. This research investigates, describes and analyzes the problem of the use of the drug “ecstasy” by young people who go to “haws” parties and consume ecstasy tablets. The researcher conducted interviews with 20 young people who attend these parties. The technique used in sampling was the snow ball. The researcher attended several of the rave parties. The main findings were that the majority of the ecstasy consumers were young, in their early twenties. The consumers listened and danced to techno music. The respondents said that music, colorful clothes they wore and their consumption of ecstasy were all interlinked and helped create inhibition, sociability and happiness. The young people were usually from upper or upper middle class. Various misconceptions were shared by the ecstasy abusers such as the belief that its consumption does not lead to dependency or addiction. The drug is perceived as a mild stimulant that helps youth to dance for hours. These misconceptions represent clear manifestations for the existence of an emerging drug inducing subculture among ravers. The main sources of information that young people received about these parties were friends, emails, cell phones, text message, flyers in social clubs and magazines.

The researcher concluded that addressing drug problems among youth require developing the awareness of involved parties e.g. youth; families, law enforcement authorities and establishing effective communication between youth and other sectors of society.

The research developed an integrated program which was implemented by the Childhood Lovers Society, an NGO that works on combating problems of drug use and addiction among the youth. The researcher has also held workshops with authorities who combat drug use and addiction in Egypt.

5.3 Implementation Oriented Studies: The knowledge produced was utilized

A decision was taken by the Program to replicate some of the successful projects that were greatly appreciated by stake holders. Research teams were notified of the decision and asked to submit proposals for these projects. Proposals were evaluated and 3 were chosen to be replicated. The

first was **“School Based Program of Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Ismailia, Egypt.”** By Dr. Hesham El Sayed.

The objective of the study was to design and implement an injury control program in a preparatory school in Ismailia city, and to evaluate its impact on the knowledge and behavior of the students.

This program is the intervention component of the injury control studying that was conducted in Ismailia preparatory schools in the year 2002 and funded by the PDR program.

An educational and training program targeting school children was developed, aiming at improving their knowledge about injury prevention and first aid for injuries. The program included series of lectures, educational posters, video-presentations, and practical injury first aid training program. The study was implemented by team from the Suez Canal University and the school staff.

The study included 197 pupils, 77 males and 120 females, with a mean age of 13.16-1.61 years. Incidence of injuries among school children was 35.5% and males had significantly greater share of it. The most common external causes of injuries sustained by the children was falls (44%). Drowning (16%), poisoning (13%) road traffic injuries (11%), and physical corporal punishment (11%). Most injuries occurred in the streets, playgrounds, and at home. Injuries caused considerable absence from school.

Most children experienced corporal punishment (74%), either at school or at home, however males were more exposed to physical punishment. Almost all children refused this method for either disciplining or educating them. The study showed also that children are exposed to high risk of injury, due to the hostile environment and the insufficient safety measures both at the school, street or even home.

Pupils showed significant lack of knowledge concerning causes, risk factors, prevention, and first aid for injuries. Only 35-60% of the children knew about first aid for injuries. This level improved dramatically to 78-93% after the injury health promotion program.

The team recommendations were: there is great need for wide spread coverage of the educational system in schools for safety promotion and injury prevention. It should also include training for first aid of the different injuries. There is also great need to improve safety measures in schools, streets and even at home. Corporal punishment is an important problem that needs special care.

The study team aims at using this study as a nucleus for preparing safe community program for injury control in all of Ismailia Governorate.

The second project was **“Simple Technologies to Improve the Living Standard of Villagers in Tamiya District, Fayoum By Dr. Ahmed Fouad Abdel Motilib**

In the last decade of the twentieth century, the development and modernization of rural communities have been among the main focus of the literature on comprehensive development. Technology has an important role to play in this process. Many economists emphasize that the foundation of technological development is the availability of easily usable information and technical knowledge to rural population. In agreement with this perspective, the main goal of this project was to provide Egyptian farmers in some of the villages of Tamiya District with a set of simple technologies that would help them run small and successful income-generating projects. The project accomplished the following: first, farmers in the selected villages were trained on the use of new tools that enhance the process of honey extraction and the establishment of bee hives made from cheap local materials. Second, 300 camphor trees were planted in the Manahil area in the village of Suweris. Third, farmers were trained on the set of new tools to develop the production of natural silk (e.g. the equipment used for extracting silk). Rural women were also trained in weaving the wastes remaining from extraction of silk, cotton and sheep wool with the use of a manual weaving machine. Fourth, the project team introduced farmers to new equipment that facilitates the classification of silk worm cocoons. Fifth, the project planted 700 mulberry trees in the Suweris village to help farmers establish small silk production businesses. In addition, the project presented two models for the production of butter. The first model was based on manual labor, while the second made use of machinery. These two models enabled rural women to make butter in a period of time that ranged between 3 to 7 minutes. Finally, the project also presented a model for machinery-based chicken hatchery that can be used in rural households as an economical alternative to natural hatcheries.

In addition the team also produced 4 machines, two for corn separation and one for crushing and grinding grains and the last for shredding the agricultural waste for feeding the animals.

The third Study was “Applying a Model for Primary Eye Care to Control Trachoma Disease” By Dr. Gamal Ezz El Arab

Based on the study findings undertaken by El Noor Foundation in 2003 and funded by the PDR Program on the assessment of Trachoma disease in 15 villages in Fayoum, an intervention was initiated and adopted.

The research question was, given the ecological circumstance of Fayoum Governorate would the model of primary eye care be capable of controlling eye diseases including trachoma?

The objectives of this intervention were to:

- 1) Establish a structured system for the delivery of eye care to the target communities through the utilization of the already available resources in the community.
- 2) Evaluate the validity of the system in controlling the main communicable eye diseases with its underlying social and ecological factors.
- 3) Recommend to health authorities the steps to be taken in order to use the system on a wider scales.

Three villages were selected according to the following criteria: (1) high risk factors for the spread of communicable eye diseases. (2) accessibility to Fayoum Eye hospital (referral center). (3) availability of village health unit.

To operationalize this system a mutual process of referral and feedback had be established between the health units in the village and the Central hospital in Fayoum City. Referral sheets were devised to identify the sick person, family and household, type of eye disease, intervention needed and the outcome of the referral

To prepare the field for this project there were meetings to sensitize the community for the project as well as to chose the villages. Primary eye care program was also conducted. The aim of the program was to provide each trainee with the knowledge and skills required for the eye care delivery. The trainees were chosen from the government health units located in the villages studied. The training also included general doctors from the villages and primary schools, nurses and health visitors from the health units and primary schools.

Links were established between this project and Family Planning Project of Ministry of Health in Fayoum for Health Improvement which make the record keeping an easier job.

The field work started and regular meetings took place to facilitate smooth interaction and to solve any problems that would arise.

The governor of Fayoum was also notified of the work being done by the Noor Foundation.

The findings of the project indicate that 448 persons were identified from the 3 villages under study, to have problems with their eye health/vision.

The referral system started with the village clinic for which 23 persons were found not to have anything wrong with their eyes. A total of 102 persons were referred to the central eye hospital in Fayoum City. Out of these 80 persons received surgical interventions and 22 persons did not show up.

In conclusion most of the eye cases examined were properly diagnosed at the primary care level, village health unit. 90% of cases were dealt with either at the village health unit or the central hospital in Fayoum City while 10% were referred to Center, for tertiary care and rehabilitation services out of Fayoum Governorate. This shows that the training was effective.

The impact and applications of the project were: a research proposal for conducting a study on trachoma control in Matartares village; Noor Foundation in collaboration with Institute of Tropical Medicine, School of Medicine, Maryland University, USA.

Participation of Noor Foundation and the P.Is in WHO regional meeting for trachoma control EMRO-Cairo.

A model for self sustainable center for eye services in Fayoum. As a result of the research two demands were outlined . The first, was a demand for good quality, high volume eye care service and the second demand was for increasing the community acceptance of eye surgery particularly cataract, trichiasis and other eye surgeries. An integrated system was founded based on 3 components:

- 1) A base hospital
- 2) An outreach program
- 3) Peripheral primary satellites units.

A partnership among the authority of Fayoum Governorate to provide the land needed for the hospital construction and the starting up activities and El Magrabi Eye hospital and Noor Foundation taking the responsibility of all technical and managerial tasks. The Magrabi Eye hospital will allocate all the costs needed for the construction and equipment through donations. The Noor Foundation will initiate the fund raising campaigns to allocate the costs for running the first phase of the project before achieving a state of self sustainability.

The fourth study was: **Promoting and Marketing Safe Agricultural Products In Ismailia and Suez**

The researcher and his team being from the Agricultural Research Center and dealing with farmers on daily bases, knowing their problems and interacting with them felt that a holistic approach which combines agricultural research with extension workers and farmers in single frame work of production economics would be a valuable contribution.

The aims of the study were to introduce young agriculturalists to the GAB standards of agricultural production and to improve marketing procedures for their products.

The methodology used was Participatory Rapid Appraisal in addition to observations and group discussions.

The recommendations for the study were to: (1) Enhance networking between producers and provide them with the modern techniques (computers) to link up to the internet and different electronic services. (2) Establish coordination between agriculture extension and Mubarak projects for young graduates. (3) Provide training on post harvesting technical activities. (4) Replicate the study in other graduates villages.

These recommendation were of importance since the researchers were in the official position to carry them out.

The fifth study was **Enhancing the production of Natural Silk in Sharkia Governorate**

A project such as producing silk through raising silk worms is considered a good source of income generation for the youth and newly graduates in rural areas. The project aims to identify the knowledge and skills levels of young graduates and rural people in the production of natural silk, identify the available resources and guidance efforts in this area and design a training program to upgrade the skills of agriculture engineers and young graduates in this field. The study was conducted in Sharkia governorate. Focus groups and interviews were conducted with a sample of silk worm breeders, the researchers organized and participated in workshops and discussions with local government officials, senior members of agriculture cooperatives and the youth. Questionnaires were used in identifying the personal characteristics of the subjects of the study.

The recommendations for the project were: (1) To allocate funds within the Ministry of Agriculture to plan and implement training sessions for agriculture engineers. (2) Coordinate with the agricultural reform cooperatives and agriculture extension and credit facilities to enhance the participation in this project. (3) Expand the cultivation of raspberry trees in the newly reclaimed

land. (4) Devise an applied strategy for the marketing of cocoons. (5) Find technical solutions for the different stages of silk production.

As a results of the research a total of 120 graduates requested this project of silk production to be replicated in other governorates such as Suez and Ismailia.

6. Midterm Evaluation

The agreement between the MMRPs and DGIS stipulated an evaluation process at the midterm period. This idea was stressed during the Arusha workshop of (1995)² where the issues of monitoring and evaluation were discussed. The conference recognized the vital role of monitoring and evaluation to ensure a positive process of self learning with the objective of improving the performance and adjusting the program content in response to the changes in the environment of the MMRPs.

The conference acknowledged that the evaluating methodologies would reflect relative progress achieved in relation to the original plan and would allow for the adjustments of objectives during the implementation phase provided the overall frame work of the Dutch policy for the MMRPs was observed.

It noted that the evaluation process should interpret the data in various ways to formulate clear criteria or indicators of achievements. These indicators have to reflect primarily the process through which the program has evolved.

It is against this background that the Egyptian Program “PDR” has started in March 1999 and was mid term reviewed after 3 years from its inception, (May 10 – 20,2002).

The following is the report of the review mission composed of Drs. Chandan Mukerjee and Saad Nagi.

² Proceedings of the Arusha workshop, 1995.

MIDTERM EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

Partnership in Development Research in Egypt

I - BACKGROUND

The review mission was composed of two persons: Professor Chandan Mukherjee, Director of the Centre for Development Studies, Karala, India; and Professor Saad Z. Nagi, Sociology Department, The Ohio State University, USA.

The general mandate of the mission was to evaluate the various aspects of the organization processes, and accomplishments of the PDR program in Egypt as they have evolved during the last two and a half years. The objectives of the review are included in Appendix 1.

This review took place during the formative stage of the program. We, therefore, attempted to look at the program in respect to organizational and conceptual development, and the evolving strategies to promote research on development in Egypt. We understood the core principle behind the sponsorship of this program as follows:

To promote research relevant for development action, and the capacity for the same, which is scientific, may be termed as 'social-scientific', and may or may not find support (financial and otherwise) in mainstream research. The focus is on building a knowledge base that requires co-operation across disciplines and different sectors of the stakeholders in the society. This is all the more important in a context where resources and incentives for mainstream research itself are minimal.

The mission was carried out during the period of May 10 through May 20. In conducting this review, we studied a number of documents (Appendix 2) and interviewed a number of people involved in the program in a variety of roles (Appendix 3). Before proceeding with substantive issues, we want to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the openness of all we interviewed who made the sessions informative and thoughtful. We want, also, to express our thanks to the Program Coordinator and the Director of the Social Research Center for the many ways they facilitated our task.

II -THE PROGRAM AND ITS CONTEXT

Programs such as the PDR neither evolve nor operate in vacuum. An understanding of their organization and performance is advanced by considering the contexts within which they are developed. Several characteristics of the environments of research and application in Egypt are particularly important: (1) there is a serious lack of reliable base line information to guide policy and program planning and operations; (2) research capabilities in universities, government agencies, and NGOs are severely limited; (3) this applies also to the availability of resources for research such as libraries and computer facilities; and (4) there is a

wide gap between research and application. In addition to attempting to address these contextual conditions, the development of the PDR program was guided by several considerations agreed upon in the Leiden meeting: focus on sustainable development, demand orientation, location specificity, multidisciplinary, and contribution to capacity building at the level of both researchers and institutions.

The program was designed to include several mechanisms: (a) to create expanding networks of researchers and organizations who become a pool of potential applicants; (b) to publicize the objectives of the program and “Requests for Proposals” (RFPs), and to manage related administrative processes; (c) to organize committees of qualified professionals to evaluate the proposals; (d) to provide training on preparing proposals, data collection, data analysis, and computer packages; and (e) to monitor and to assist during the course of the projects. The administrative structure includes an Advisory Board (18 members), a Steering Committee (3 members, a subset of the Advisory Board), and a Secretariat headed by the Program Coordinator.

III – PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Progress in this program over the initial three years has been impressive in effort, pace, and results in both quantitative and qualitative terms. More specifically, our observations and conclusions can be summarized as follows:

1. An effective organization for the program was put in place without delays. More important are the capabilities and background experience of the staff of the Secretariat, and the diversity of the governing committees including both researchers and practitioners. The process was greatly facilitated by the fact that the program was placed in a respected, well staffed and equipped institution.
2. It was evident from the discussion with some of the members of the Advisory Board, representing different constituencies and a diverse range of experience, that they share a commitment to the notion that research, and development of a knowledge base at the ground level, can play a decisive role in action for development and improving the quality of life of the people at large in Egypt. There were clear indications of a group of people, qualified and experienced, coming together in an effort to provide guidance to the evolution of a program towards a concrete goal – identification and understanding of the social & economic problems, specifically, in the context of poverty. This is an evolving stage, through debate, exchange and interaction among a group of diverse people dealing with the guidelines and decisions with a specific focus. We found enough grounds for optimism about the culture and norms, which are evolving in the process of governance of the program.

3. Announcements of the four rounds of RFPs were made through advertising in newspapers, letters to NGOs, and word of mouth. The numbers of proposals submitted (Appendix 5) shows a healthy response, especially in view of the recency of the program. There is promising variability in the organizational bases of the applicants: NGOs, academic institutions, public research centers, and others including graduate students seeking support for theses and dissertation research.
4. There is a significant proportion of graduate students among those awarded grants by the PDR. This is a novel attempt in expanding the scope of capacity building as they are the potential researchers of the near future. Our discussions with the students revealed a positive impact this has made on the departments they come from by way of promoting a healthy competition among the students. It also seemed to have served as an incentive to the teachers.
5. The program is aware of the relatively smaller numbers of applications from those working in NGOs. We were pleased to note that the program's strategy of introducing a category of solicited research on specified themes was showing the promise in generating interest among the potential applicants from the NGOs.
6. The selected topics of research have been conceived according to the development needs both from social as well as from economic point of view. Many of the problems selected for research are multi-disciplinary in nature. At the same time, many of these topics would not normally find support within the resources for 'main-stream' research. It is a credit to the PDR to have zeroed onto the central theme of the MMRP in such a short time.
7. The prior experience of the PDR management (Secretariat and Steering) with the processes and decision making structures of programs of competitive research proposals is well reflected in the smooth and efficient procedures followed in handling the proposals and convening professional peer-review committees to evaluate them for funding. The interviews we had indicate that the processes established are clear, transparent, professional, and open to suggestions for improvement. These processes yielded proposals around significant problems and identified a group of informed and enthusiastic grantees.
8. There is only a small pool of researchers in the country who are familiar with the preparation of proposals that meet the standards required for funding. The pool is significantly reduced when dealing with applied research in development. The result is that some applicants identify important and researchable problems, but lack the knowledge of how to systematically go about preparing an acceptable proposal and conducting the inquiry. To address this gap, the PDR introduced training programs on the preparation

of research proposals as part of the PDR. The value of this program was highlighted by a statement of a public health physician among the grantees we interviewed who said: “I feel lucky that my proposal was first turned down because this got me to attend the training program which was invaluable to me, not only in producing a successful proposal, but in going about the research itself”.

9. Training is not limited to the preparation of research proposals. The program also includes training in analytical techniques and the use of statistical computer packages such as the SPSS. The grantees interviewed attested to the great value of acquiring these skills. Continued monitoring by reviewing progress reports, individual consultation, and visits to field work by professional researchers, offered additional learning opportunities, the importance of which was repeatedly mentioned by the grantees.
10. The training received and the experience acquired bode very well for the contributions of the PDR program to capacity building. In this respect, it is important to note that the interviews we conducted revealed that the effects of this training and experience go beyond the individual grantees to influence their organizational environments. In effect, the grantees, including the students, are becoming “agents of change” by sharing the skills they acquire along with the mental set of scientific thinking.
11. Periodical meetings of the grantees and the presentation of their experiences and findings further enrich the learning experience as well as offer opportunities for networking.
12. In programs of this kind, the issue of boundaries inevitably comes up—it has been of concern in the management of this program. Boundaries can relate to substance, to categories of potential grantees, and/or to location. Wherever a line is drawn, ambiguous cases will be found on both sides of the line. In addition to attempting to clarify criteria for drawing boundaries, another way to handle ambiguities is to expand participation in decisions. The PDR has been using both approaches in their operations.
13. The program is too recent to have a record of dissemination activities. However, the importance of this aspect has been repeatedly emphasized in the interviews we had with members of the Advisory Board and the grantees. It is also well recognized by the Steering Committee and the Program Coordinator.
14. The hosts of the PDR (The Social Research Center and The American University in Cairo) have been making significant financial and service contributions to the program (Appendix 6).

IV - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PDR

The following suggestions are for consideration by members of the policy and management structure of the PDR:

1. It is important to continue the activities and processes as well as the commitment and dedication that led to effectiveness in the initial period of operation.
2. It would be more advantageous to the program to change half of the Advisory Board in each term as prescribed by the program's constitution. This would allow for continuity while also introducing new perspectives as new members are added. It would be useful to have "EX-OFFICIO" membership to include those who should be "permanent" members by virtue of their positions, such as the Director of the SRC.
3. For the purpose of executive decision-making, it may help to expand the Steering Committee by one or two members.
4. Support for theses and dissertations has attracted a number of excellent students. It is bound to contribute significantly to capacity building in the universities and research institutes from which they come. It will also enlarge the pool of researchers oriented to the kind of research promoted by the PDR program. Consideration should be given to designating a percentage of the allocations to this purpose, and possibly to organizing separate review committees for these proposals.
5. Dissemination of knowledge yielded through studies, as well as methods and results learned from demonstrations, is a crucial objective. As mentioned earlier, the importance of this function will dramatically increase as more projects are completed. In preparing for optimal fulfillment of this objective, formats for the release of information need to be designed, means of communication need to be identified, and appropriate mailing lists need to be accumulated. It is important to target the information to potential users, and special attention needs to be given to targeting decision makers whether in government or in the civil society.
6. It was mentioned that because of the breadth of the program, the meetings of grantees bring together investigators with varied interests. To enhance the exchange of views and experiences intended from these meetings, it is suggested that attempts be made to increase commonality of interests in these meetings. This will mean more meetings and smaller groups in each.
7. Networking among researchers has been mentioned as helpful to the grantees. It would be useful to continue including alumni of the program in meetings after they have completed their research. Consideration should

also be given to recognition in terms of awards to the best completed projects. For students with the best completed projects, funding may be sought from other sources to assist them in pursuing doctoral or post-doctoral studies abroad.

8. The size of the program and the multiple activities it included are heavily demanding of time and energies. It is important to periodically re-examine the staffing needs and add the necessary personnel.
9. The objectives of the self-study do not seem to have been clarified. The one carried out in preparation for this review was more of an evaluation (Appendix 4). This exercise was based on an approach, which assessed the outcomes in the light of the project objectives, the inputs, the activities and the resources. Given the nature of the program which, is open for a conceptual development, it would be more useful to have an introspective report prepared by the secretariat itself, detailing the issues and dilemmas, means adopted for handling them, and a sense of the direction in which the program has moved so far.

V - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DONORS

1. Programs such as PDR need predictability and relatively long term visibility in policies and support. And, once they are geared up, they also need reasonable time for phasing out when change in policy requires reduction in resources or termination. Abrupt decisions can have seriously damaging effects on the host institutions. These considerations should be given serious attention when conducting legislative and/or administrative reviews of the program by the donor government.

In particular, it needs to be recognized that a program of this nature requires a long-term approach. The program is only at a start-up phase, and shows all the promise of playing a crucial role in capacity building both at the individual and at the institutional level. For an effective sustainability of the process which is being initiated, a long term commitment is absolutely essential.

2. The expanding needs of the Egypt/PDR program will require additional resources, especially in regard to personnel. Since no "indirect costs" are allowed, it is necessary that it becomes as self-sufficient as possible in terms of financial requirements. As mentioned earlier, the host institution (SRC/AUC) currently carries a considerable part of the costs.

The success of program operations depend in large part on a dedicated and capable secretariat. At present, the Program Coordinator looks after every aspect of the secretariat activities. A qualified researcher needs to

share in the routine activities, leaving time for the Coordinator to devote to strategic matters.

3. It is suggested that the MMRPs arrange for interaction among researchers from different country programs who are addressing related substantive issues . Observation of similarities and differences is a fundamental source of learning. And, cross-cultural comparisons provide invaluable opportunities for such experience.

Grantees Evaluation

To evaluate the PDR program it was imperative to know how the grantees felt about it. A survey was conducted among the researchers who were funded by the program up to the end of 2004.

A pre tested questionnaire was sent to all the principal Investigators. Repeated contacts were made by phone faxes and visits . A total of 41 completed questionnaires were received out of the 94 funded projects which amounted to 46.6% of all funded projects until the end of 2004.

The questions asked dealt with researchers knowledge of the program, their interaction with the secretariat through out the program life time, the extent to which the program helped in building up capacity both on the individual as well as the research team level, the ability to disseminate project results to stakeholders and the grantees future plans both individually and institution wise.

In looking at the affiliation of the grantees who responded to the questionnaires, there was 14 NGO, 10 university professors, 17 institutes affiliated to universities and 10 students. As to the sources of information about the program 22 or 43% said they got to know of the program from newspapers 24 or 47% from friends or colleagues and 10% from program leaflets and literature. Looking at the perceptions of the grantees on the various initiatives undertaken by the program, the majority 48/51 or 94.1% or were satisfied with the training courses offered by the program. Training on statistical packages especially SPSS was the most favorable among the grantees. Proposal writing was second in importance, research methods came third, power point presentation came fourth in importance report writing was fifth and internet search was last.

The following quotations are examples of the appreciation felt by the grantees:

“This training workshop was extremely beneficial for me as I have not used any statistics since my graduation in 1994. The SPSS workshop enriched by professional knowledge.” (SPSS workshop).

“The instructor was able to give an efficient and clear introduction for the statistical package with lots of practical exercises. We benefited greatly.”

“We were taught precision in choosing the research problem, specifying the variables and continuing where the others left off” (proposal writing workshops.)

“The necessity of using the appropriate methods for the study depending on the type of research being conducted was an important aspect in the workshop.” (methodology workshop).

“Writing final reports detailed enough but without overdoing, precise and to the point.” (final Report workshop)

As is evident by the different quotations, most researchers were very positive about the program’s attempt to enhance their capabilities and they made significant improvements in their work.

Negative remarks from researchers concerned the time constrain for these workshops. They demanded the workshops to be longer.

As to the question on dissemination, most grantees were satisfied with the meetings and seminars held by the program. It provided an avenue to the researchers for networking with other institutions, researchers and experts. These meetings were expamplified in midterm reviews, final reports, seminars and dissemination meetings.

Dissemination of research results to stakeholders was achieved by 66.7% of the researchers. Positive effect dissemination on stakeholders amounted to 94.6% while negative effect was 5.4%.

As to the future plans 69.6% said that they been able to get funding or research support, while 30.4% were not. Individual level advancement was cited by almost all the researchers whether in conducting the research in a professional way, getting a degree or being appointed in a consultancy or advisory role.

Finally, the relationship between the researchers and the secretariat was viewed by all as a smooth, relaxed and efficient one. The accessibility of the Secretariat and its willingness to interact to make available the resource materials and linkages were considered by all to be a major factor that helped the grantees capacity building.

7. International Meetings and Workshops

The MMRP projects began in 1994 and had several common features. Each MMRP contributed to sustainable development of the society especially in terms of poverty alleviation, protection of the environment and enhancing the status of women. Demand orientation emphasized taking into account societal needs. Capacity building, knowledge production, diffusion and utilization of the knowledge produced, were all important elements stressed by the program. The unique feature in the MMRPs vs other programs was the emphasizes on the research agenda, which was drawn up by the programs themselves based on their perceived needs.

Another equally important feature was that all programs adopted a process approach with the aim of maximizing local ownership from the outset. As an expression of this ownership, the MMRPs agreed to hold the coordinator's meeting every 18 months in one of their countries.

The general objectives of these meetings were to stimulate the process of mutual learning through the exchange of information, new developments and the experiences of MMRPs and DGIS. As a form of capacity building. MMRP meetings helped to develop the future plans for implementation of the Netherlands policy on research and development and to discuss the management issues.

The first meeting attended by the Egyptian Program was the 2nd coordinators' meeting held in Oegstgeest, Netherlands in June 15-17 1998.

The Egyptian program was invited as a potential candidate to join the MMRPs. The significance of the meeting as Dr. George Waardenburg puts it "was that for the first time the MMRPs and Neda were able to look together explicitly and critically at their experiences, the challenges they faced and their achievements." This was achieved through internal and joint reviews, which led in turn to a formulation of explicit common challenges and tasks. The specific goals of this meeting were to (1) present and discuss the report of the over all joint review (2) address the major issues facing each MMRP. (3) discuss and plan the implementation of the recommendations of the overall review report, (4) discuss and plan action on two major issues of quality and sustainability as well as management issues.

The 3rd coordinators' meeting was held in Leiden, the Netherlands 10-12 Oct. 1999. The Egyptian Program "Partnership in Development Research" had joined the MMRPs officially. The agenda for the meeting dealt with the quality issues. Quality indicators were discussed and a plan to put the quality indicators into practice was drawn. Other issues were discussed such as a joint newsletter for all MMRPs and well as questions on sustainability of the programs.

The 4th coordinators' meeting met in Entebbe, Uganda 2-7 April 2001. The meeting emphasized the operationalization of Quality indicators framework. A comprehensive analysis of the research process as it relates to the secretariat, decision makers, the organization and all the stakeholders was conducted based on four themes. These themes were dissemination, capacity building, training and sustainability. Action plans were suggested by each MMRP. Other items discussed were the newsletter, scientific journal, independent service institute, web strategy, quality management, and the forthcoming reviews.

The 5th coordinators' meeting was held in Dar El Salam, Tanzania, Oct 13-19, 2002. The meeting had two objectives. The first was to reflect on the past performance of each MMRP taking into consideration major achievements, challenges and constraints. The second was to discuss the strategies for improving the quality and effectiveness of demand driven research for sustained poverty reduction. Three areas were identified for the discussions, mainly the implementation of quality management, strategies for dissemination and the collaboration among MMRPs.

The 6th and final coordinators' meeting was held in Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 7-12, 2004. Participants included, in addition to the coordinators of the MMRPs, the two biotechnology programs in Colombia, Andra Pradesh and the Bosnia Forum who were funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and run in the similar manner of MMRPs.

The meeting had three objectives. The first was to discuss ways and means by which the MMRPs could mainstream demand lead research in order to increase its visibility and emphasize its valuable contribution to development. The second objective was to explore the different strategies used by each program to rally support for demand led research and the third was to discuss mechanisms that promote the use of research results. Another important aspect of this meeting was to discuss the donor's (Netherlands) position vis- a-vis the continued funding of the programs. A decision had been taken by the Ministry of Foreign affairs at the Hague, that funding will no longer be their responsibility, rather it should be through bilateral programs. This decision came as the result of change in policy mechanisms in regard to development policy. The Ministry will honor the contracts signed but further funding will be discontinued. Appeals were sent to the Minister of Development at the Hague but with no results.

Efforts were made to get funding from other organizations. The Program was successful in obtaining funding from Ford Foundation to continue with the program on a thematic topic of youth and empowerment.

International Workshops:

In the process to make themselves visible to the scientific community, the MMRPs decided to hold international workshops based on a specific area of concern, conducted by these programs. In this way the scientific community would become aware of the research being undertaken by the different MMRPs.

The first workshop, the PDR was invited to, was in Trivandrum, India. Kerala Research program on Local Development hosted the workshop entitled "Research for Poverty Alleviation" September 16-18, 2002.

Twenty three papers were presented from six of the participating MMRPs. The issues covered were, the linkages between poverty and environment, agriculture development and poverty, institutional intervention for poverty alleviation, urban poverty alleviation and the concept of poverty.

The contribution of the PDR program came under the second area of poverty and environment. The program was represented by Dr. Salwa M. Abdalla, with the paper entitled "Impacts of Ecosystem Degradation on Farmers Livelihood: A case study in Northern Nile Delta". A joint paper with Dr. Fawzi Kishk.

The paper was selected to be included in the edited volume produced by Kerala's program.

The second international workshop was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was hosted by the program Vietnam – Netherlands Research Program (VNRP), entitled "Environment and Sustainable Development" October 9-10, 2003.

Twenty papers were presented from seven of the participating MMRPs. The issues covered were, environment and poverty alleviation, environment and natural resource use, environment, gender and community development. Contribution of PDR program came under the second and third areas. The program was represented by Dr. Gamal Mohamed Kamal El Din with his paper on "The Role of Nubian Sandstone in Solving Environmental Problems in Upper Egypt", and Dr. Abdel Hamid Kabesh, with his paper "Community Based Rehabilitation within Development Programs of Development".

8. Website

The website for the program "Partnership in Development Research" was constructed in 2001 by Mr. Mohamad Hassan Hosni. Its address is <http://www.aucegypt.edu/pdr>. It is in both the Arabic and English Languages. All activities and publications are discussed in details.