

Independent Study: Sample Introductions and Key Questions

Empowerment of Rural Women in North India through Education and Microfinance

Section 1:

Purpose of Study:

"This study is an attempt to prepare myself to work for the development of the rural villagers. In this project, I look closer at the existing reality of the rural poor and envisage the possible entry points into these communities to facilitate effective participation of rural women in community development. For this, I wish to learn from the experience of existing organizations which are engaged through adult education and microfinance".

Nature of Development Issue:

"The issues I wish to address are poverty, illiteracy and discrimination against women." (1 paragraph descriptions of each)

Section 2:

More detailed descriptions of the issues of poverty, illiteracy and discrimination as it relates to the rural area in which the author is interested.

Key Questions:

1. Which are the existing strategies for the development of rural women through adult education and microfinance and how effective are they?
2. Will these existing models be effective in the extremely poor socio-economic and cultural background of the people of our project areas?
3. What will be the ideal strategy according to the needs of the poorest women of Northern India for their development?

Youth Organization: the Pillar of HIV/AIDS Prevention

Section 1:

The author begins with a two paragraph description of HIV/AIDS in Rwanda.

"My own experience in the Rwanda National Youth Council", proves that the organisations of young people can play an important role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS....the topic for my independent study is 'the potential role of youth organization in community development, in relation to the HIV/AIDS prevention'. I chose my topic because young people are a vulnerable group; at the same time they constitute the sharp force of the nation because of their number and their youthful energy."

Section 2:

The author elaborates on the impact of HIV/AIDS in Rwanda, the problems of its spread, the achievements of organizations in confronting the problem so far.

Key Questions:

1. What is the potential role of youth organizations?
2. What are the relevant lessons from the HIV/AIDS program of RNYC and other youth organizations?
3. How to reinforce the capacities of youth organizations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention?

Emancipatory Gender Education for Karayu Pastoralists

Section 1:

Introductory paragraph on the concept of gender followed by:

"The general issue of my independent study focuses on gender education, which involves women and men. In particular, I will look at gender education in the Karayu pastoralist community living in Ethiopia....I hope to lobby with Gada leaders for the rights and benefit of women, insist that the school incorporate gender in all subjects, and develop a gender training program which is appropriate for the Karayu community."

Section 2:

Description of the pastoralist community, the environment in which they live, education, economic conditions, etc.

Key Questions:

1. What are the challenges of gender education with the Karayu
2. How can we develop gender education through emancipatory adult education?
3. How can we mainstream gender in all GTF programs?