

The New Horizons Program in Egypt

Life Skills for Disadvantaged Rural Girls

The New Horizons Program was a cooperative project between an American non-governmental organization--the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA)---and a number of Muslim and Christian NGOs in Egypt. It was funded by the United States Agency in International Development (USAID). The needs assessments, facilitator materials and activities, and the testing and assessments all resulted from the collaborative efforts of the Egyptian NGO field workers under the supervision of two technical experts provided by CEDPA. Now that the program is finalized, the Egyptian NGOs are using it in the villages where they customarily work. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response in villages by the girls and their parents, even to the portions of the materials which deal scientifically with reproduction and such sensitive subjects as female circumcision and the marriage virginity test. The materials were also adapted in Egypt by local youth representatives of the Scouts for use in meetings of urban educated young people. UNICEF is adapting the materials for use in Egyptian Community Schools. In the near future the Dutch Government will support modifications of the materials for use in Yemen.

The enclosed materials are the drafts of facilitator materials that were developed in Egypt for out-of-school rural girls. The drafts have since been tested in villages, refined and completed. Altogether there are 3 of these volumes with accompanying posters (full-size and in color). The remaining two volumes not present here focus on the physical changes of adolescence, reproductive health, pregnancy, parenthood, child development, sexually transmitted diseases, drugs, some income generating skills, etc.

The enclosed volume is the first, most general one for the younger girls. The remaining volumes are for girls who have completed the first volume, and we usually required them to be age 12 or over. We asked the NGOs to provide literacy skills before offering the income generating portions of the materials. The full set of completed materials (with approximately 100 class sessions) can be obtained from: CEDPA, 53 Manial Street, Suite 500, Manial, El Rodah, Cairo 11451 (Attention: Amal Gamal or Julie Hanson-Swanson) Tel. 3654567, FAX (202) 3654568.

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