



fédération francophone et germanophone des
associations de coopération au développement asbl

Reference document on Development Education

This reference document has been produced for clarification purposes within the ACODEV Sectoral Group on Development Education. This is a reference framework which reflects the common vision of Development Education shared by the member NGOs in ACODEV.

1. Purpose

Faced with the unequal distribution of wealth in the world, in particular between the North and the South, Development Education is a process which seeks to generate changes in values and attitudes at the individual and collective levels with an eye to a fairer world in which resources and power are fairly shared in a spirit of respect for human dignity.

2. General objectives

Development Education is an educational approach which sets itself the following tasks:

- to facilitate a global understanding of the issues in development and the unfair mechanisms of exploitation which give rise to unfair relations between the North and the South
- to facilitate an understanding of the interdependencies between societies in the North and the South
- to accompany the acquisition of an informed and critical view of the reality, at the level of both micro-social and macro-social relations
- to promote a better dialogue between the citizens via an intercultural approach based on mutual respect and equality
- to promote values, attitudes and skills linked to solidarity
- to stimulate and reinforce the capacity of citizens to mobilise in collective actions of solidarity in social, political or awareness-raising terms, for the sake of laying the foundations for a fairer and more equitable world.

3. Educational strategy

Development Education is a global education process whose North/South dimension is a crucial component part. It is brought to life in the South and the North alike, on the basis of a collaboration between players in the South and the North.

It seeks to be a dynamic form of education, open to active, creative, pluralist participation geared towards action and social change.

It is a process of social awareness-raising and training of citizens capable of:

- deconstructing the North-South stereotypes
- defending human rights
- stimulating humane and sustainable development
- encouraging solidarity and social participation
- combating xenophobia and racism
- fighting violence and war
- promoting the gender approach (equality between men and women).

It is a teaching act which involves the construction of learning situations allowing diverse audiences to understand, to engage in dialogue and to act. It promotes:

- participative, active and interactive initiatives
- approaches facilitating the analysis of the complexity of development
- the emergence of the mental representations of the target audiences (with specific work on the images and prejudices in the face of other people who are different)
- teaching that is suited to the diversity of the audiences
- formative and participative methods of evaluation
- learning in terms of knowledge, know-how and abilities.

These teaching principles are translated into concrete form via a plethora of actions which can be divided up around five main thrusts:

- awareness-raising actions
- consciousness-raising actions
- lobbying or advocacy actions
- mobilisation actions
- research-action actions

It is a political act which constitutes an essential part of citizenship education. It notably takes the form of promoting a work involving synergies and alliances with groups, associations, collectives and diversified networks in North and South alike.

ACODEV, asbl
Boulevard Léopold II 184D - 1080 Bruxelles
Tél. : 02/219.88.55 Mail : so@acodev.be
Site Internet : www.acodev.be
Editeur responsable : Etienne Van Parys
Contact : Wamu Oyatambwe