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The following is a brief report on several group discussions on questions identified at the DHAC meeting of 24 August 1983.

1. PROBLEMS IN COMMUNITY ORGANISING

1.1. Problems affecting organisations:

- 1.1.1. many organisations are loosely structured, adhoc in nature
- 1.1.2. no programme of action
- 1.1.3. imbalance between civic and UDF work
- 1.1.4. handling of political issues at civic level
- 1.1.5. extent of political input on day to day community work
- 1.1.6. need for greater co-ordination of groups working in the same area - consultation eg. youth and civic organisation in Sydenham
- 1.1.7. initiate work in new areas has the added difficulty of identifying problems in the area
- 1.1.8. need to revive lapsed organisations
- 1.1.9. limited work-force
- 1.1.10. large number of activists during campaigns - drop out afterwards - problem of how to keep activists
- 1.1.11. development of local people both in new and old areas
- 1.1.12. development of working-class leadership
- 1.1.13. there is insufficient contact with local people to ensure their development
- 1.1.14. must not develop dependency on students
- 1.1.15. problems of recruiting people into the organisation
- 1.1.16. how to ensure grassroots participation
- 1.1.17. problems with racism

1.2. Concerning communities:

- 1.2.1. "settled" communities - "contented" - adapted to problems
- 1.2.2. need to understand and assess community consciousness better - not looked at regularly and systematically
- 1.2.3. racist attitudes

1.3. Activists:

- 1.3.1. training of community organisers
- 1.3.2. limited work-force doing both UDF and civic work
- 1.3.3. how to respond to "contented" community - style of work to do

- 1.3.4. limited technical skills - publications chairmanship etc.
- 1.3.5. differences in organisational method - house visit
- 1.3.6. recruitment of activists
- 1.3.7. no assessment of consciousness of activists

2. SOLUTIONS PROPOSED

2.1. organisations:

- 2.1.1. need for formal structuring of organisations- formal membership/cards
- 2.1.2. creating close identification with organisation
- 2.1.3. campaigns to popularise organisation
- 2.1.4. development of model of ideal organisation - use as a standard for guiding work
 - need for regular evaluation - develop standard criteria
 - need to weigh achievements against objectives and aims of organisation
- 2.1.5. need to root organisation in the people - ensuring day to day access and contact
- 2.1.6. democratic participation - develop procedures to ensure this at all levels, particularly at mass level

2.2. Programme:

- 2.2.1. work during lull period - maintenance activity eg. advise office
- 2.2.2. broaden community organising perspective from issue orientation to include service activities
- 2.2.3. DEAC workshops on theory and skills

2.3. Training Programme:

- 2.3.1. technical eg. publications
- 2.3.2. making assessment of community
- 2.3.3. theoretical skills
- 2.3.4. develop a common approach for house-meetings, visits etc.
- 2.3.5. different training packages for different calibres of organisers
 - people with minimal involvement in organisational work
 - organisers in the field
 - leadership level
 - community members conducting house meetings
 - others

areas fully and accurately must report back to

3.5.4. areas should meet before DHAC meetings so that issues are discussed

3.5.5. establish contact persons for passing on of information

3.6. Co-ordination - site of space not been

3.6.1. contact between areas - exchange of information and experiences

3.6.2. mobilising work-force for areas that have problems

3.6.3. joint action - co-ordination of activity on common problems

identifying issues which could facilitate joint action - issues with potential

water surcharges housing policy local govt. proposals

UDF programmes of action

3.7. Meetings: make arrangements ensuring that they are convenient particularly for working people

3.7.2. need for regular and fixed dates to be set

3.7.3. reps. should attend business meetings

3.7.4. all activists should attend discussions

3.8. Training: workshops on theory and technical skills

3.8.2. input on ideal model of a community organisation

3.9. Workshops: developing concept of ideal model

3.9.2. how to assess consciousness of activists and communities

3.10. Organising: organising new areas - set up organisations

3.10.2. look at problems of organising areas with town boards

3.10.3. ratpayer organisations - affiliation to DHAC

3.11. Structure: organised for fulltime personnel

3.11.2. should DHAC establish a citizen advice section

3.11.3. need for a central contact point

3.11.4. is the name (Durban) a limitation to outlying organization joining

of some extent from previous DHAC or Development Committee

2.4. For Activists:

- 2.4.1. training programmes
- 2.4.2. development of common organisational method eg. house visit
- 2.4.3. recruitment programme
- 2.4.4. need for change in style - agitational approach
- 2.4.5. development of activists in each local area - remove problem of dependency
- 2.4.6. skills in recruiting local activists and their subsequent development
- 2.4.7. need for assessment of level consciousness of activists
- 2.4.8. need to develop model of ideal organiser

3. ROLE OF DHAC

3.1. General Tasks:

- 3.1.1. identify issues that might affect affiliates
- 3.1.2. keep in touch with authorities like DCC
 - get information
 - apply pressure on issues
- 3.1.3. initiate discussions on important problems
- 3.1.4. effect of PC on ratepayer areas?

3.2. Need for a programme

3.3. Relationship to affiliates:

- 3.3.1. advise and assess with local problems and issues
- 3.3.2. need for channel of communication to facilitate quick response to local problems
- 3.3.3. organise broad support on local struggles
- 3.3.4. need for a sub-committee to discuss/investigate relationship between DHAC and its affiliates - relationship not clearly defined
- 3.3.5. officials should attend area meetings

3.4. Liason with fraternal organisations - establish and maintain contact with similar organisations eg. CAHAC

3.5. Obligations of affiliates:

- 3.5.1. need to report accurately and honestly to ensure correct assessments of situations
- 3.5.2. there must be continuity for those who attend DHAC meetings

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