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UNESCO - technical assistance informa-  
tion on experts and specialists

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MR.

U N E S C O

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION ON EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS

1) - Title of post - an anthropologist

a sociologist

each of them specialized in cultural and educational research. The former will be a co-director of the Center of Higher Studies on Education ("Centro dos Altos Estudos Educacionais").

2) - Location - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.3) - Background and Functions -

Education in Brazil faces from two great problems. On the one hand the rapid increase in population produces a high rate of illiteracy in spite of the efforts of the Federal and State Governments to train personnel and to build schools. On the other hand the school education is not adequate, especially at the high school and university level to the needs of a country which is in a state of rapid change and development.

It should be noted that, until 30 years ago, education facilities were available only to a well-to-do elite and given at foreign schools with traditional pedagogical methods, not suited to specific cultural conditions. Brazilian universities and high schools have increased in number since 1930. They have not, however, been able to find methods and means adequately to replace the foreign inspired schools, now extinct, and to cope with a number of students ten to twenty times larger than at that time.

The crisis in education can be equally felt in the field of textbooks and reading material for youth. The material available is inadequate both in quality and quantity.

It is necessary to emphasize that the deficiency in high school and university education is prejudicial to the training of effective teachers of all levels.

To meet the crisis in education the Ministry of Education has opened an inquiry which will have the following objectives:

1. Collection of data and actual research into cultural conditions of the different regions of Brazil and into the trends and tendencies of its developing social forces in order to prepare a realistic regional interpretation of the country.
2. Formulation, in the light of that interpretation, of the main lines of an educational policy aiming at the redirection and reorientation of schools and universities with a view to helping the most desirable and integrated development of each region of the country and of the country as a whole.
3. Continuing research into current conditions and directions of Brazilian education in the different regions of Brazil in order to find out how the schools are fulfilling their functions in a society changing towards an urban, industrial, democratic civilization, or how they are hindering this change.
4. In the light of the new educational policy, based on the socio-economic and educational findings of research programmes mentioned above:
  - a. to prepare plans, recommendations and suggestions for the educational reconstruction of each region of the country at the elementary-rural and urban level, secondary, normal and higher levels of education, also in the field of adult and fundamental education;
  - b. on the basis of the researches and policies developed by the Center, to prepare text-books and general and specific teaching material and special studies on school administration, school curricula - elementary and secondary - educational psychology, philosophy of education, school measurements, teacher's training, etc.

- c. As part of the work in research, interpretation, planning and in the preparation of material, to train administrators and specialists in educational and social research and theory, to form the nuclei for similar regional centers of research later to be established at each main region of the country.

The organization responsible for this research is the Center of Higher Educational Studies, a government-sponsored, autonomous organization composed of Brazilian educators, scientists and civil servants, who, it is proposed, will work with the assistance of a group of specialists recruited in foreign countries.

As at present planned, the foreign specialists will work on a cooperative basis with Brazilian counterparts in a systematic research programme requiring the following disciplines or fields:

Social Anthropology

Sociology (with particular emphasis on Social research methods)

Social Psychology

Philosophy of Education

Psychology of Education

Curriculum Construction - Elementary  
- Secondary

Educational Measurement

Educational Administration.

The research program of the Center will be developed pragmatically and experimentally, with a view to the development of concrete suggestions and recommendations for the educational development and reform in Brazil. The international nature of the project is also intended to raise the level of Brazilian educational research by bringing Brazilian specialists into close working contact with specialists from abroad. The close relations between the Center and the Ministry of Education will assure the most favorable access to information, and conditions for field investigation, - and guarantee serious consideration and implementation of any conclusions or recommendations elaborated by the Center's research programme.

It is tentatively proposed that the specialists in social Anthropology, Sociology, and social Psychology, and possibly in Economics be recruited as a team, to work for an initial period of six months prior to the recruitment of the Education specialists. This will enable the social research specialists to develop preliminary data and lines of thought on the basic social and cultural conditions in Brazil from which the more specific educational studies can be projected.

With the arrival of the education specialists, the programme of the center will focuss progressively on the development of more specific researches and recommendations in the educational field on the basis of the studies and suggestions developed by the social science experts attached to the project.

#### ROLE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF EXPERTS TO BE RECRUITED BY UNESCO

Special importance is laid by the Brazilian Government on the role of the Social Anthropologist and the Sociologist to be recruited by UNESCO for the Center. It is foreseen that the Social Anthropologist will act as Co-director of the project working with his Brazilian counterpart on the development of the general lines in which investigations should be undertaken, and on the elaboration of conclusions and recommendations. The specialist in Sociology, it is anticipated, will give technical guidance on the most appropriate methods of conducting the special researches necessary to complete or supplement the data available to the Center.

In enlisting the services of Social Science Specialists to undertake the conceptual leadership and planning of the proposed research programme, the Brazilian Government wishes to benefit from insights based on a systematic study and appreciation of the basic socio-economic and cultural conditions in Brazil, as they relate to current educational conditions, and to the development of answers to the problems outlined above.

From the foregoing, it will be recognised that the qualifications of both specialists must be of the highest. The leadership to be provided by the



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Social Anthropologist, must combine an ability to analyse complex social conditions and develop their implications for educational theory, practice and administrative methods in Brazil. Experience in the development of cooperative research programmes, and in the direction and inspiration of group work is essential. Personal tact, Adaptability and qualities of intellectual leadership are necessary in what is recognised to be a novel approach in the fields of educational research and planning.

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