

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Unicef assistance to education, *Assignment Children, April-June 1973.*

UNICEF's concern with education derives from its comprehensive approach to child needs. The impact of education interlocks with that of health, nutrition and welfare in promoting child development. Recognizing that education enables the child to maximize his potential as a healthy, self-reliant individual and as an effective contributor to the advancement of society, UNICEF's intervention in the field of education, in collaboration with UNESCO and other concerned agencies, will concentrate upon assistance in the attainment of minimum standards for educationally deprived children.

More specifically, UNICEF's assistance for education will in the future focus more upon the deprived children in rural areas and urban slums and shanty-towns, with highest priority for this target population in the least developed countries. The age group most concerned is that of primary school level and below. However, assistance will be given to projects for adolescents if they are limited to aspects relating to health, nutrition, welfare or practical or pre-vocational training.

Aspects of educational services with which UNICEF could be concerned because of the educational deprivations suffered by children include the following: (a) failure of the educational system to meet the child's needs both as an individual and as an effective participant in society. These educational deficiencies might range from a primary school programme ill-adapted to the preparation of the child for the real world outside of the school, to the absence of special services for the handicapped child; (b) lack of educational opportunity resulting in illiteracy; (c) language discrimination in education where the mother tongue is not used as a bridge to the language needed for full participation in the development of the country; (d) educational discrimination against socio-economic or ethnic groups or girls; (e) the absence of educational programmes in such fields as home economics, health, nutrition, and child-rearing, including programmes for parent education.
