

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This issue marks the launching of Poverty and Human Resources Abstracts (PHRA). Although the publication has some features akin to a journal, its main emphasis is on service. Our aim is to place information in the hands of government officials, community leaders, researchers, community action personnel, business and labor leaders -- and indeed any individual or group -- who share with us an interest in the problems of poverty and human resources.

The proliferation of publications and data sources makes it virtually impossible for any single individual or group to survey and digest the information that is available in journals, unpublished evaluation and research reports, speeches, legislation and government administrative decisions. Not only is it imperative that this information be available in an organized, concise form, but such data should open lines of communication to ideas and policy across regions, communities and disciplines. The information to be learned from a demonstration project in Hoboken, New Jersey, may be of equal value to an economist at the University of Chicago, a community action worker in Seattle, Washington, a government planner in the Department of Commerce, or a labor or management official in Detroit. The essential need in each of these cases is for relevant, stimulating, accurate and concise information. Without this, perspectives are narrowed and social policy planning and implementation suffer. Our publication is primarily a service instrument; a tool designed to serve a wide range of needs in the areas of poverty and human resources. Our service is designed to be useful to the teacher who desires a better understanding of the disadvantaged student and his environment; to the community leader who seeks information in the planning of poverty and human resource programs; to the researcher in the development of new hypotheses or a research design; to the community action practitioner who is on the firing line and desires familiarity with previous solutions to a given problem; and to the educational curriculum planner who seeks to train professional workers in poverty and human resource undertakings.

The need for this service was recognized about one year ago by the co-directors of the Institute, as well as by members of the Research Division staff. The Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations is a joint project of The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and Wayne State University (Detroit). The Institute was organized to facilitate regular university instruction in the disciplines and professions related to industrial relations, to encourage basic and applied research on industrial relations topics and to organize and promote programs of community education in industrial relations. One of the central concerns of the Institute has been in promoting scholarly analysis of the industrial problems of our times. This has led to a concern with the use or lack of use of human resources in the contemporary labor market and the development of manpower policy to bring about a more effective utilization of human resources on the American scene. The Institute has co-sponsored conferences on social security, sponsored and encouraged research on man-

power problems (the impact of technological change in the transportation industries, minority group employment, the impact of plant shutdowns and unemployment) and helped to subsidize scholarly research on problems of poverty. The concern of the Institute staff with the problems of information dissemination in the field of poverty and human resources stems directly from research and programmatic interests in this field.

The Goals and Concerns of PHRA

To be effective a service must be prepared and willing to change. The field of poverty and human resources is constantly changing. New kinds and sources of information might become crucial to our subscribers in the months and years ahead. In designing our service, we have committed ourselves to add the useful and subtract the useless, once changing needs have been established. This flexibility on our part is designed to encourage communications and dialogues with our subscribers. We solicit criticisms, suggestions and information that should be communicated in our publication to other subscribers and improve our service.

Our publication is designed to place into the hands of concerned people, the widest and most diverse variety of information and expressions of opinion that come to the attention of our trained staff. PHRA is conceived as an arena where not only technical information is aired but in some cases controversial opinions. The selection of material is such that the reader is exposed to the many sides of opinions on the major issues in poverty, human resources and manpower development. Just as a mature reader expects to gain a number of diverse views on a technical topic, so he expects to be exposed to varying opinions on social policy and planning; and the criteria by which choices can be made.

In the months ahead, PHRA will issue working papers on special subjects to give the subscriber some depth on a particular topic in poverty and human resources. We also expect to enlarge our coverage of legislative and administrative developments on the national and state levels with particular emphasis on emerging and changing programs in poverty, human resources and manpower development. Our plans also call for the development of communication mechanisms whereby our subscribers may gain access to information on a particular problem.

We conceive of poverty, human resources and manpower development as areas that call for the broadest kinds of information; interdisciplinary in nature. The main goal of our publication is to present a balance of contributions from all of the major disciplines, integrated with the experiences of practitioners on the grass root levels and description by informed laymen.

Acknowledgments

The initiation of our publication owes a debt to many more people than we can acknowledge here. The initial planning was undertaken by Mrs. Joyce L. Kornbluh, Alan Haber and myself, shortly after the publication of our reader Poverty in America. Mrs. Kornbluh was primarily responsible for the early

contacts with scholars, government officials, and private agency leaders to ascertain the need for the service and suggestions for its form. She did yeoman-like service in the organizing and editing of the present volume. Mr. Haber has contributed his knowledge and keen insights in poverty and human resources at every stage of the development of this undertaking. The basic classification system was his design and his conversations with scholars, practitioners and agency personnel contributed greatly to the final design of the service. We were also aided in this undertaking by the wisdom and advice of Dr. Sar Levitan of the Upjohn Institute who discussed with us the organization and content of the service. Professor Hylan Lewis of Howard University and Professor S. M. Miller of Syracuse University were very helpful, among others, in these concerns. Dean William Haber of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts counselled us at different times and supported us in this work. We especially would like to express our gratitude to the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, The University of Michigan - Wayne State University, and especially to its Co-Directors, Ronald W. Haughton and Charles M. Rehmus, who saw the value of the project and made available technical and initial financial assistance.

The appearance of this publication owes a great deal to our editor, Gershom Clark Morningstar, upon whose shoulders fell the responsibility of coordinating the many activities and solving the vexing and numerous problems that plague any new publication. Our work was also facilitated by the services of Mrs. True English, Administrative Assistant in the Research Division; Mrs. Dora Brown and Mrs. Patricia Mertins who were responsible for assembling and typing the materials in this first issue.

The Current Edition

It is altogether appropriate that the original review article in our first edition should concern itself with a discussion of programs of aid for the poor. Dr. Sar Levitan needs no introduction to scholars and practitioners in poverty, human resource and manpower development activities. He has a long and distinguished career in universities, government and private foundations, and is the author of numerous works in the field of human resources and manpower planning. He received a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University in 1949 and has held the following distinguished positions: research professor, The George Washington University; labor specialist, Legislative Reference Service Library of Congress; public member, Reviews and Appeals, Wage Stabilization Board. Currently, he is a consultant with the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Washington, D. C. His publications include Federal Aid to Depressed Areas (The Johns Hopkins Press, 1964) and Readings in Unemployment (editor) (Government Printing Office, 1960). We are privileged to bring Dr. Levitan's paper to your attention.

In this issue, the legislation on poverty and human resources of the 88th Congress and the first session of the 89th Congress is reviewed. In subsequent issues, we will present a review of state legislation in these fields and expand our coverage to include an analysis of key legislative developments.

We hope that this service will prove to be of significant benefit to you in dealing with the problems of poverty, human resources and manpower development.

Louis A. Ferman
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January 15, 1966