

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT

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WORK OF THE CENTRE

SUMMARY OF THE UNIT'S PERFORMANCE



The Regional Coordinating Unit of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS) continues, under the leadership of Prof. Barbara Bailey, to widen its sphere of influence nationally, regionally and internationally. The establishment has been increased by a second Lecturer, and the Unit also benefits from having a Research Assistant, funded for one year initially by CUSO, a Canadian Development Agency, and a part-time Research Assistant, who was appointed to assist Prof. Bailey, when she was

invited to serve on the Strategic Transformation Team established by the Campus Principal.

The work of the RCU comprises Graduate Teaching, Research, and Outreach, which includes the development of training material, for a variety of audiences, implementing regional projects on behalf of the university and of multi-lateral agencies, and advising on a range of issues through consultancies. This is the ongoing work of the Unit and is expected to continue in the coming academic year.

TEACHING

Some of the targets set for teaching in the previous year included an increase in enrolment in the graduate programmes and the Diploma Programme, reduction of the attrition rate, and increase in the rate of throughput. The offer of a Seminar on *Gender and Trade* to Graduate Students and persons from the wider community was also planned, and finally, fund-raising for converting courses in the M.Sc and Diploma

programmes in Gender and Development Studies for web-based teaching.

Graduate Teaching

In compliance with the strategic goals of the University as they relate to graduate studies, the RCU achieved one of its targets by expanding its Graduate intake. The Unit now admits students annually instead of biennially, on a part-time or full-time basis, and now has twenty-three students registered in the graduate programmes. Two students were assigned supervisors, others are in various stages of preparation of their proposals, and the rest are doing course work. The increase in enrolment is partly attributable to the decision to allow part-time registration in the MSc programme. The change of status has also contributed to the reduction of the attrition rate.

Prof. Bailey continues as Coordinator of the Programmes of the Centre, and supervises graduate students of the CGDS as well as students from the School of Education. She also teaches and is first examiner for one course in the graduate programme.

The Distance Diploma Programme

Dr. Yusuf-Khalil continues to manage the Distance Programme and to provide on-going training for distance learning instructors, online orientation over 3-weeks and one-day of orientation on the Teleconference system for the students. She has developed Study Guides for 6 courses in the Diploma Programme and for the research project. Close monitoring through chat room sessions has kept the students focused and prevented them from feeling overwhelmed and dropping out.

Curriculum Development for Web-based Teaching

In an attempt to build the Unit's capacity in distance education, Dr. Khalil, in collaboration with professionals from the University of Maryland (USA), Makerere University (Uganda), Bar-Ilan University (Israel), and the University of the Western Cape (South Africa) participated in the design and development of an online graduate course titled, "Women's Health and Well-Being".

This course was piloted with graduate students from the UWI and the other four participating universities, and in July 2006, a workshop was held at the University of Maryland to modify the course, based on the findings

from the pilot run. This work is ongoing, and the course will be available to the participating universities when it is completed. Efforts to acquire funding to convert courses in the UWI graduate programme for web-based teaching, have not, however, met with success.

Gender and Trade

On December 7-8 and 12-13, 2005, a 4-day seminar on *Gender and Trade*, was held to introduce to members of the university and the wider community certain aspects of the long-term effects on the people of the Caribbean, of trade agreements signed by governments of the region. Graduate students and Government Personnel were invited to participate and the seminar was led by Dr. Mariama Williams, an authority in the field.

RESEARCH

Targets for the Research programme included the writing and delivery of the final reports on the *Gender Differentials Project*, completion of the Research Projects on *the Root Causes of Gender-based Violence*, and the four *Specialist Studies*; completion of the Research, and report on *Gender Socialisation, Schooling and Violence*. Three meetings of stakeholders to discuss the findings of the 4 Specialist Studies and the Research on Violence were also planned. The Unit experienced some success in its attempt to meet these targets.

Several research projects which are of crucial importance to the region, are ongoing, and the deadlines set for completion have not been realistic, given the fact that Prof. Bailey, as Director of the Centre, has oversight of them all. However, with the participation of Dr. Yusuf-Khalil, Ms Suzanne Charles, Junior Research Fellow, Ms Georgia Brown, a Research Assistant, who is paid by CUSO, and Mrs. Grace Christie, part-time Research Assistant, some of the targets were met, and others were partially achieved. *Gender Differentials in Performance at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels of the Education Systems of the Anglophone Caribbean: An In-depth Study of Factors Affecting Schooling*

This is the largest project, being regional in scope. The research has captured information from students, parents, principals, teachers, lecturers, guidance counsellors and recruiters in each of the research countries. Because of the vast amount of data generated from the research activities, it has not been feasible to write one report. Instead, Prof. Bailey decided to prepare a series of thematic reports which would serve the

purpose better, and they are now being written. The CDB, in the meantime, has been given regular updates.

Root Causes of Gender-based Violence

Gender-Based violence continues to be one of the critical issues facing women world-wide. The Unit with funding from CIDA, through the CCGEP concluded a Project to try to determine the *Root Causes of Gender-based Violence in Jamaica*. The research was conducted by a team of researchers and covered different sectors of the population. An integrated report was prepared and handed to the funding agency in August 2005. Stakeholders were then invited to a workshop on September 22, 2005 to share the research findings and make suggestions for the way forward. Lead researchers for each activity presented their findings and Ms Charles did a presentation on the response of children to violence. Suggestions from the meeting were incorporated into the final report to the funding agency.

Specialist Studies

Four specialist studies, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), through the Canada/Caribbean Gender Equality Programme (CCGEP) and linked to the wider *Gender Differentials* project, were completed and presented to the funding agency. The scheduled stakeholders' meeting to share the research findings will be held later in this academic year, and the reports are to be edited and published.

Gender Training and Research

The final phase of the *Gender Training and Research* project has ended with the conclusion of the Research Component titled *Gender Socialisation, Schooling and Violence*, and the holding of a regional stakeholders' workshop, in Dominica. The coordination of the research activities and preparation of the preliminary report were the responsibility of Ms Althea Perkins, a Research Assistant in the Mona Unit. She was assisted in training the field researchers by Dr. Yusuf-Khalil who also analysed some of the qualitative data. The workshop, the theme of which was *Strengthening Prevention Approaches to Gender Based Violence*, was planned in collaboration with UNIFEM and CARICOM and held from May 9-11, 2006. Although the final research report is still being prepared, the rapporteur's report was sent to the funding agency along with a preliminary draft.

OUTREACH

Outreach continues to be an important part of the Unit's work, and many of the activities in the Centre's programmes are geared towards this. The primary outreach target was the completion and publication of two gender training modules to be used for training middle managers in the public and para-public sectors. One module, *Gender and Management Issues in Caribbean Organisations*, has been completed and sent for editing. The second, *Understanding Gender in Caribbean Societies*, is almost completed.

The Unit also planned to complete a user-friendly, interactive learning tool on CD ROM, dealing with basic gender concepts and tools for gender mainstreaming in UNICEF and UNIFEM programming. The task was commissioned by UNICEF and UNIFEM, for training their Programme Officers in Latin America and the Caribbean. The research was coordinated by Prof. Bailey, who working in collaboration with Dr. Khalil, Ms Charles, Ms June Castello, Lecturer in the Mona Unit, Ms Althea Perkins, Research Assistant, Mona Unit, and a technical team, completed the three modules. They were sent to UNICEF and a response is being awaited before they can be finalised.

Main Targets Set by the Unit for 2006/2007

The Unit hopes to carry out the following activities during the academic year 2006/2007:

TEACHING

- Review and Restructuring of Graduate Programme
- Development of a Module/Course on Gender and Trade, to be offered initially as a stand alone course for government personnel, NGOs, and graduate students.

RESEARCH

- Stakeholders meeting to share research findings of the Specialist studies
- Preparation of the Report on the Research Component of the Gender Training and Research Project, titled *Gender Socialisation, Schooling and Violence* and submission of this and the Terminal Project Report for the Project.
- Completion of the development of the interactive training CD ROM for Latin American and Caribbean Programme Officers of UNIFEM and UNICEF

- The Unit has been asked by CARICOM to resubmit a proposal to conduct a study on Gender in Early Childhood from a Caribbean Perspective.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Bailey, Barbara.

- “Gender in the Caribbean”. 36th Annual Meeting, Society for the Study of Black Religion. Ocho Rios, Jamaica. April, 2006. (With Suzanne Charles)
- “How Institutions Influence Gender Dynamics: The Education Sector”. Conference - Towards Gender Equity in Jamaica. National Family Planning Board, Jamaica and The Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta Georgia. November 30, 2005

Suzanne Charles.

- “Gender and the Caribbean Family” Conference - Towards Gender Equality in Jamaica. The Jamaica National Family Planning Board, USAID and United States Centre for Disease Control & Prevention. Kingston, Jamaica: November 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Article

- * Bailey, Barbara. “Petticoat and Coat-tails: The Dialectic of Educational Attainment and Socio-Economic, Political Autonomy and Control in the Caribbean”. *IDEAZ* Vol.4. Nos. 1&2. pp.34-51. 2005.

INCOME GENERATION

The MSc Gender and Development Studies is a self-financing programme. Fees are therefore paid to the Unit’s Consultancy Fund for paying contract staff and the purchase of teaching material.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Barbara Bailey

- Government of Jamaica’s representative, Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Organisation of American States
- Government of Jamaica’s representative, 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York.
- Chair, Gender Advisory Committee
- Chair, Nursing Appeal Tribunal, Ministry of Health

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

MSc and MPhil/PhD Programmes

Enrolment in the MPhil/PhD graduate programmes has increased. There are one PhD, 11 MPhil., and 10 MSc students registered in the graduate programme.

Undergraduate Distance Diploma Programme in Gender and Development Studies

Enrolment in this programme has been very consistent since its inception in 2003. Intake for 2005/06 was 10 students. In November 2005, eight students from the Pilot Group and Cluster 1 graduated from the programme.