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EXTENSION METHODS

by

Joseph Di Franco Extensionist



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Turrialba, Costa Rica November, 1966

EXTENSION METHODS

Joseph Di Franco

Much has been written on the subject of extension methods.

Most of such literature makes general classifications and then
provides lengthy explanations on the utility, advantages and
limitations of extension methods. Although this is very useful,
it is not detailed quite enough to clarify the differences between
an extension or educational method and a communications medium.

Emphasis is placed on describing the communications media and leaves the readers thinking these are the extension methods, when in reality they are components of the educational activity. The combination of educational activity and communications media is an extension method.

This paper is not a substitute for what has already been written and published in this area, but is presented as a further aid to help extensionists better understand the components and necessary elements involved in extension education.

In an attempt to help diminish the misunderstandings the following brief presentation is offered.

First is presented in outline or graphic form, the elements in relation to each other: extension methods, teaching activities, communications media, program and plan of work. The author's

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definitions of the component elements follow the graph.

EXTENSION METHODS TEACHING ACTIVITIES COMMUNICATION MEANS a. Lectures a. Demonstrations Method b. Radio Result c. Television b. Visits d. Press Office Farm Objectives e. Films Home Knowledge or f. Posters skill g. Exhibits c. Meetings Seminars Teacher Panels h. Drama Short courses Clientele Round tables i. Puppets Workshops Environment or j. Models Clubs Cooperatives Place of Action Organizations k. Circular letters 1. Bulletins d. Tours m. Slides - filmstrips n. Blackboards, flannel boards o. Flip charts p. Leaders (or third persons)

PROGRAM AND PLAN OF WORK

What will be done
Where it will be done
By whom it will be done
For whom it will be done
How it will be done
Why it will be done

Extension methods

- Is a systematic plan adopted to utilize in the teaching activity those communication means which will enhance and facilitate the transfer of knowledge.

Teaching Activities

- Are those actions in which instructional material is presented by the teacher.

Communication Means

- Are those media employed by the teacher to facilitate and enhance the transfer of knowledge.

Program and Plan of Work

- Is the total systematic operation designed to use the best educational methods to obtain specific goals. A total systematic extension program includes:

what knowledge or skill is to be transferred.

where it will be done.

^{*:} Educational Method as defined by Webster: "a systematic plan adopted in presenting instructional materials.





When it will be done.

By whom it will be done.

For whom it will be done.

How it will be done.

Why it will be done.

Obviously this requires that good extensionists 1) define their educational objectives, 2) understand thoroughly the skill or knowledge to be transferred, 3) know the clientele (custom, culture, habits, desire, need, etc.), 4) know the environment in which the teaching is to take place (to better determine what communication media will best serve), 5) be well-trained in teaching skills and use of communication media and 6) learn to develop systematic plans.

This is where the professional aspect of the extensionist is demonstrated. His ability to understand and put into practice these factors will determine how capable he is. His level of competence will affect the degree of success his teaching efforts will attain and also determine how successful he will be in reaching the basic extension objectives - to help people improve agricultural production and to help them raise their level of living.

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PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Extension Philosophy
- 2. Evaluation in Extension
- 3. Subject matter specialists in Extension: roles, problems and adjustments
- 4. Extension organization: for administration and for program development
- 5. Elements that contributed to the success of the United States Cooperative Extension Service
- 6. Local leaders in Extension
- 7. A collection of principles and guides
- 8. Pre-requisites to progress in agriculture: Land, Labor, Capital and Knowledge
- 9. Coordination the key to successful extension education service
- 10. The U. S. Cooperative Extension Service
- 11. Program building: part of the process of extension
- 12. Differences between Extension Education and Community Development
- 13. Agrarian Reform and Extension Education
- 14. The Nature of Extension to change people
- 15. Teaching vs. Learning
- 16. Steps in organizing rural youth in Extension
- 17. Some factors that do not contribute to efficient or effective extension work in Latin America
- 18. Adults responsibility to youth
- 19. Importance of using rural people as leaders in rural development
- 20. A job to be done

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- 21. The essence of extension education
- 22. Leadership vs. Administration
- 23. Facts are the best antidote for rumor
- 24. Social Science A necessary ingredient in rural development

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