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INTRODUCTION

Extension education is an applied behavioral science, the knowledge of which is applied to bring about desirable changes in the behavioral complex of human beings usually through various strategies & programmed of change & by applying the latest scientific & technological innovations.

Objectives of extension education.

The objectives of extension education are the expressions of the ends towards which our efforts are directed. In other words, an objective means a direction of movement. Before starting any programmed, its objectives must be clearly stated, so that one knows where to go & what is to be achieved. The fundamental objective of extension education is the development of the people.

Agricultural extension in our Liberia is primarily concerned with the following main objectives:

The dissemination of useful & practical information relating to agriculture, including improved seeds and other implements required in changing the mindset of the farmers.

The practical application of useful knowledge to farmers, to improve all aspects of life of the rural people is essential in agricultural extension. Extension work is based upon some working principles and knowledge necessary for an extension worker. Some of these principles as related to agricultural extension as mentioned below.

Basic principles in agricultural extension system

There are basic principles and guidelines used as a tools in community intervention:

1. *Principle of interest & need.* Extension work must be based on the needs & interests of the people. These needs & interests differ from individual to individual, from village to village, from block to block, & from state to state &, therefore, there cannot be one programmed for all people.
2. *Principle of cultural difference.* Extension work is based on the cultural background of the people with whom the work is done. Improvement can only begin from the level of the people where they are. This means that the extension worker has to know the level of the knowledge, & the skills of the people, methods & tools used by them, their customs, traditions, beliefs, values, etc. before starting the extension programmed.
3. *Principle of participation.* Extension helps people to help themselves. Good

extension work is directed towards assisting rural families to work out their own problems rather than giving them ready-made solutions. Actual participation & experience of people in these programmed creates self-confidence in them & also they learn more by doing.

4. *Principle of adaptability.* People differ from each other, one group differs from another group & conditions also differ from place to place. An extension programmed should be flexible, so that necessary changes can be made whenever needed, to meet the varying conditions.

5. *Principle of grass roots organization.* A group of rural people in local community should sponsor extension work. The programmed should fit in with the local conditions. The aim of organizing the local group is to demonstrate the value of the new practices or programmed so that more & more people would participate.

6. *Principle of leadership.* Extension work is based on the full utilization of local leadership. The selection & training of local leaders to enable them to help to carry out extension work is essential to the success of the programmed. People have more faith in local leaders & they should be used to put across a new idea so that it is accepted with the least resistance.

7. *Principle of whole-family.* Extension work will have a better chance of success if the extension workers have a whole-family approach instead of piecemeal approach or separate & unintegrated approach. Extension work is, therefore, for the whole family, i.e. for male, female & the youth.

8. *Principle of co-operation.* Extension is a co-operative venture. It is a joint democratic enterprise in which rural people co-operate with their village, block & state officials to pursue a common cause.

9. *Principle of satisfaction.* The end-product of the effort of extension teaching is the satisfaction that comes to the farmer, his wife or youngsters as the result of solving a problem, meeting a need, acquiring a new skill or some other changes in behavior. Satisfaction is the key to success in extension work. "A satisfied customer is the best advertisement."

10. *Principle of evaluation.* Extension is based upon the methods of science, & it needs constant evaluation. The effectiveness of the work is measured in terms of the

changes brought about in the knowledge, skill, and attitude & adoption behavior of the people but not merely in terms of achievement of physical targets.

Conclusion:

Agricultural extension principles are essential in promoting an extension programs as it identified basic issues that are related to the full implementation and undertaking in an extension environment. Extension principles are paramount for both the extension agents and the communities in which an extension program are to be implemented. For example the principle of culture difference is crucial to the implementation as culture varies from community to community as the tradition, norms and values of communities must be given a serious consideration.

References:

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