

REPORT REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
STUDY CIRCLE METHODS
NEW DELHI

21ST-27TH JANUARY
1963

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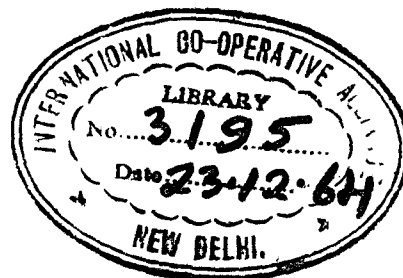
REPORT

STUDY CIRCLE METHODS (REGIONAL)

held at

New Delhi

January 21 - 27th, 1963



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ICA Education Centre
6 Canning Road
New Delhi.1 (India)

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON STUDY CIRCLE METHODS HELD AT NEW DELHI

January 21 to 27, 1963

"REPORT"

A Regional Seminar on Study Circle Methods was organised by the ICA Education Centre at New Delhi in January 1963. In all twelve persons from Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore and India participated in it. A list of participants and a copy of the programme are appended hereto as Annexures "C" & "D".

The Seminar discussed the value of study circle techniques in the overall context of the cooperative education methods adopted by the movements in the South East Asian countries. Special aspects of the study circle programme viz. the institutional structure, production of study material, training of group leaders and methods of conducting group discussions received special attention. A discussion of these aspects and the question of applicability of Study Circle methods was outlined in the Report of the Conference on Study Circle Methods held at New Delhi in December 1961. The present report gives the main conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar and reports of national programmes of two working groups constituted by the Seminar. (Annexures "A" & "B").

ICA Education Centre
6 Canning Road
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CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Seminar was of the opinion that Study Circles were an instrument of member education designed to be helpful in promotion of leadership in the Cooperative Movement. Participants in Study Circles were likely to become the opinion-forming groups in their societies, and through participation they would become qualified for rational decision-making in the parliamentary meetings of their societies and ultimately the Movement as a whole. The Study Circles method had been effectively used in Swedish and other European Movements and had also proved itself useful, with suitable adaptation in the Comilla Project in East Pakistan. The Seminar agreed that, suitably attuned to local conditions, the Study Circle method was one of the important means of providing intensive education to the active members of cooperative societies.

It was recognised that concentrating the cooperative education programme entirely on the organization of regular courses for members did not always ensure continuity of education work, and sometimes produced only a superficial impact. In comparison the Study Circles method ensured continuity, and was also economical in the sense that it helped to reach a large number of members with relatively few teachers employed at the national level. The Seminar recognized that this approach would, therefore, be a welcome supplement to the present educational arrangements in the South and South-East Asian Cooperative Movements. Obviously the introduction of Study Circles did not in any way reduce the importance of continuing education work through other media such as films, cooperative press, radio etc.

The Seminar agreed that to start with, experimental programmes of Study Circles activities should be undertaken by the National Cooperative Unions/State Unions/Regional Unions as a part of their member education work. The tasks of the National Cooperative Unions in this respect would include the overall organizational work, finding suitable solutions to the problems of producing and distributing study material, training teachers and group leaders, arranging for adequate finances, and so on.

The Seminar recommended that experimental Study Circle activities should be undertaken only on the basis of specially designed study material, and under the guidance of persons trained for the purpose. The production of model study material started by the ICA Education Centre should continue, and the possibility of its adaptation for use at the national levels be carefully investigated. As and when the Study Circles become a regular and important part of the national member education work, each National Union itself must become responsible for producing adequate study material, as well as for arranging its distribution. When selecting subjects for

Study Circles and producing suitable study material, it should be realised that cooperative education work must be directly related to the practical tasks and problems facing the cooperative organisations and their members. Such a practical approach would necessitate close contacts between the cooperative unions responsible for the education work, and the cooperative trading and banking organizations, in order to ensure that factual and problem-centred material was brought out.

In order that the experimental programmes become useful, the Seminar suggested that training of group leaders must be arranged by the National Cooperative Unions. This should be recognized as the first responsibility of the officers (teachers) at the National level, who were to guide the Study Circle activities, and it must, therefore, be borne in mind when the teacher training programme was being planned. Existing facilities such as Cooperative Colleges and Cooperative Training Institutes should be utilized for the training of Study Circle leaders. The Seminar recognized that the success of any educational programme, particularly Study Circle activities, would depend upon the extent to which active responsibility was assumed by the primary cooperative societies themselves. It was, therefore, necessary, already from the start, that the selection of group leaders and the organization of the local Study Circles was done by the societies of their own. Similarly, the financing of the programme should, in so far as possible, also actively involve contributions from the local societies, for instance, by their purchasing study material, making available meeting rooms etc.

The Seminar suggested that the role of the ICA Education Centre in relation to the experimental Study Circle activities should be primarily that of serving as a coordinating body for the different experiments carried on by the National Cooperative Unions. Naturally since the ICA Education Centre was located in India, there was an opportunity of developing particularly close collaboration between the National Cooperative Union of India and the Education Centre. That would serve to make the experiences gained in the Indian programme readily available to other National Cooperative Unions in the Region.

Based on the discussions during the Seminar, concrete plans for the training of persons to be placed in charge of the experimental Study Circle activities undertaken by the National Unions should be worked out by the International Cooperative Alliance Education Centre, and discussed with the National Cooperative Unions.

GROUP REPORT OF THE GROUP SET UP TO FRAME NATIONAL PROGRAMME (INDIA)
ON STUDY CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Chairman : Mr M.D.Joshi
Secretary : Mr K.C.Jain

All the delegates from India constituted the group which also have had the benefit of the advice of Dr S.K.Saxena and Mr M.V.Madane. The group was of the opinion that in view of the effectiveness of the Study Circle Methods in the programme of Cooperative Member Education it is necessary to make at least a beginning in the direction of introducing the Study Circle activities in the Cooperative Societies in India. It was, however, felt that before the programme is undertaken on a large scale, the method of study circles should be tested on a pilot basis. The outline of the programme suggested is as follows:

I. Scope for Study Circle Activities in Indian Cooperative Movement.

It is considered that we should start the programme in some pilot areas where Cooperative Education Programme had already been in progress. In this country where training for members including prospective members, managing committee members, office bearers including secretaries is given, Study Circle activity, applied mutatis-mutandis, can supplement our work. This can also help us to increase the coverage and provide a convenient method of follow up which may result into intensive, self-directed and continuous process of education.

It was agreed that one project should be developed as rapidly as possible in each State. In addition the Union territory of Delhi may also have a pilot project. It is also suggested that the Study Circle activity may be introduced in the urban areas of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras and a beginning may be made by organising 15 to 20 study circles on different subjects in each of these cities.

Area for locating the pilot project in a State:

The pilot project should be located in the areas which are (a) relatively advanced from the point of development of cooperative movement, (b) where cooperative Member Education work may have been taken up intensively, (c) the literacy level is comparatively higher, (d) the area is relatively compact and (e) District Cooperative Unions and the District Central Banks, business federations, agree to help in the implementation of the programme.

II. Tasks of National Cooperative Union and the Regional Cooperative Unions in the Study Circle Programme

In the opinion of the group the National Cooperative Union of India should have the following roles to play:

1. Planning and Promotion of Study Circle Activity in the country,
2. Preparation of model study material,
3. Training of the staff of the State Cooperative Unions in the preparation of study material etc.
4. Collaborating with the State Cooperative Unions and other agencies for implementing the study circle activity,
5. Periodic review and evaluation of the programme.

II.A. Role of the State Cooperative Union

Implementing the programme of study circle activity in all its phases and especially in the matter of:

1. Guiding the societies in the matter of selection of group leaders and arrange for their job training,
2. Adaptation, production and provision of study material and maintaining the communication with the group leaders.

II.B. Role of the Primary Society in Carrying out study circle Prog.

The group felt that the primary societies will have the following role in organising the study circle activities.

- i. Selection of group leaders,
- ii. Making arrangements in connection with the holding of the meetings of the study circles,
- iii. Provision of small funds for meeting contingent expenditure of meetings.

II.C. Training of Group leaders for study circle activities

Training of group leaders will have to be arranged at the cooperative training centres or somewhere similarly suitably equipped places. The training can profitably be imparted by the lecturers of the training centres and selected cooperative educational personnel who in turn should be given specialised training by the NCUI before they could be put on the job.

II.D. Financial Requirements for the Suggested Programme

The group feels that the programme of organisation of study circles should be developed with the long term objective of making it self-supporting through the contributions of primary societies.

Very heavy additional finances may not be necessary in the initial stages. Much of the needed finance could be had if the programme is accepted, by readjustment of the existing financial resources.

Assistance From the International Cooperative Alliance

The group feels that the ICA could help the programme through the National Cooperative Union of India in the matter of planning and production of the materials, specially that may be needed by the teachers and guides and such other technical guidance which the ICA may be able to provide.

GROUP REPORT OF THE FOREIGN GROUP REGARDING NATIONAL PROGRAMME
ON STUDY CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Chairman : Mr Mokhtar bin Bahauddin
Secretary : Mr G.Ramaswamy

Frame of Reference

1. Scope for Study Circle Activities in your Cooperative Movement.
2. (a) Tasks of National Cooperative Unions and the Regional Cooperative Unions in the study circles programme.
 - (b) Role of primary society in carrying out study circles programme.
 - (c) Training of group leaders for study circle activities.
 - (d) Financial requirements for the suggested programme.

After having the views of the participants from East Pakistan, Ceylon, Singapore and Malaya, the Committee was of the unanimous opinion that there are scopes for study circles in all the countries as mentioned above. The implementing of the study circle programme could be undertaken by the National Cooperative Union and Regional Cooperative Unions for they have financial resources and the personnel which primary societies do lack.

One of the countries in South and South East Asia which has undertaken the task of organising the programme is Ceylon, but unfortunately, it is still in the stage of infancy.

In East Pakistan the Cooperative Union prepares the study material for the study circles programme and journals are printed in Bengali and English.

To meet the task of organising study circles programme the National Coop. Unions are recommended to employ specialists and to encourage its members for the production of study circle materials such as study guides, special study materials with emphasis on cooperation and relevant audio-visual aids.

The topics to be undertaken initially should be:

- a. "Why Cooperative Credit"
- b. "How much could one gain through Consumer Cooperatives"

It is the opinion of the group that for the present moment the above mentioned topics should be used as experiments to gain experience for future developments and the National Cooperative Unions should undertake to persuade the Regional Cooperative Unions to distribute the study materials to primary societies. It has also been suggested that study circles periodical should be prepared when the programme goes on smoothly. The relevant answers to the study circle materials should be sent to the National Cooperative Union which initiate the course.

The role of primary societies is to organize as many study circles as possible so that materials obtained from the National Unions could be used widely, and efficiently. The responsibility of organizing the study circles at primary society's level be vested, if possible, to a sub-committee on cooperative education. If this is not feasible, one member of the primary society's management committee should be made responsible. The functions of the management committee or educational sub-committee would be:

- 1) To select members for group leaders for training
- 2) To request/acquire materials from the National Unions.
- 3) Preliminary work for executing study circle activities.

The members selected to be group leaders for study circle activities should be given facilities for training at the cooperative college or institutions wherever such facilities exist at National or Regional level. The period of training should vary from two weeks to one month according to needs. The course should be residential and the ideal number of students to attend should be between 10 to 15 persons.

Production of study materials, necessary equipments, together with publicity materials and remuneration for teachers and specialists employed by the National Cooperative Union for the Cooperative Education Programme should be met by the National Union. The expenditure incurred for the educational purposes etc. should be recovered, partly, from the proceeds of sales of study materials. The rest of the funds required to meet this expenditure ought to come from within the movement itself, either directly from local societies or indirectly through general contributions by the local societies to the National Cooperative Union. Should the need arise external sources such as Government and other International organizations may be approached.

ICA EDUCATION CENTRE
6 Canning Road
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Annexure "C"

COURSE ON STUDY CIRCLE METHODS, NEW DELHI (INDIA)

January 21st to 27th, 1963

P r o g r a m m e

Monday, 21st January 63

10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Inauguration
Introduction to ICA Activities
Purpose and Working Methods of the Course

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Methods of Member Education to motivate active participation.

Introduced by : Mr.J.M.Rana,
ICA Education Centre, New Delhi.

This session will mainly be devoted to the review of various methods of member education and their usefulness in bringing about active participation by members in cooperative activity. The delegates to the Course will also narrate their experiences in the various methods used in member education work.

Tuesday, 22nd January 63

9.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon

a) Experiences of Study Circle Methods in Cooperative Education in Western Cooperative Movements

Introduced by : Mr.Marian Radetzki and Mr.Dharam Vir
ICA Education Centre, New Delhi.

b) Discussion on Similar Experiments of Study Circle Methods in Cooperative Education in countries of South East Asian Region.

(Mr.J.M.Rana will lead the discussion)

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Techniques of Study Circle Activity (Organisation Programme and Follow up)

Introduced by : Mr.M.V.Madane, ICA Education Centre.

This session will be devoted mainly to the procedure of organising study circle activity and the institutional framework needed to do so.

Wednesday, 23rd January 63

3.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Preparation and adaptation of Study Material

Introduced by : Mr.M.V.Madane, ICA Education Centre.

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Wednesday, 23rd January 63 (contd.)

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

- a) Selection and Training of Group Leaders (with special reference to local conditions)

Introduced by: Mr. Bertil Mathsson and
Mr. Dharam Vir, ICA Education Centre.

- b) Role of the Primary Cooperative Society in promoting group leadership and in encouraging study group activity.

(Two participants from among the delegates will introduce the subject)

Thursday, 24th January 63

9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Techniques of Study Circle Activity (with special reference to members' participation and use of audio-visual aids)

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Demonstration of Study Circle Methods
Film Show

Friday, 25th January 63

9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Exercise by participants on Study Circle Methods on a given subject.

2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Preparation of National Programmes for Study Circle Activity.

Saturday, 26th January 63

Republic Day Holiday

Sunday, 27th January 63

9.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon

- a) Presentation of a National Programme for Study Circle Methods.
- b) Discussion on the methods of implementation of the National Programmes.
- c) Follow up by the ICA Education Centre and the delegates.
- d) Summing up.

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IGA EDUCATION CENTRE,
6 Canning Road,
NEW DELHI.1. (India)

Annexure "D"

List of Participants for the Study Circle Course to be held at New Delhi
from 21st to 27th January 1963.

Ceylon

1. Mr. L.M. de Silva,
President,
Colombo Mudliyors Division M.P.C.S. Union,
169 High Level Road,
NUGEGODA.

India

2. Mr.M.D.Joshi,
Assistant Director (Training),
Department of Cooperation,
Ministry of Community Development,
Panchayati Raj and Cooperation,
Krishi Bhavan,
NEW DELHI.1.

3. Mr.R.D.Bedi,
Sr. Training Officer,
Committee for Cooperative Training,
34 South Patel Nagar,
NEW DELHI.

4. Mr.M.R.Kaushal,
Deputy Director,
National Cooperative Union of India,
72 Jorhagh,
NEW DELHI.

5. Mr.K.C.Jain,
Principal,
Cooperative Instructors Basic Training Centre,
Chandranagar,
P.O. GURGAON. (Punjab)

6. Mr.B.P.Biswas,
Cooperative Education Officer,
West Bengal State Cooperative Union,
6 Old Post Office Street,
CALCUTTA -1.

7. Mr.P.C.Rao,
Cooperative Education Officer,
Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Union,
JAMMU.

Malaya

8. Mr.Mokhtar bin Bahauddin,
c/o Town Council,
Taiping.
Perak.

Singapore

9. Mr Thekungal Thomas
c/o Mr Andrew B. Pinto
Singapore Cooperative Union Ltd
Post Box No. 366
SINGAPORE

Observers

Malaya

10. Mr G. Ramaswamy
ICA Research Fellow

Pakistan

11. Mr M.R. Sikdar
ICA Research Fellow

India

12. Mr R.N. Vyas
ICA Research Fellow
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