

INTRODUCTION

In 1968 the Commonwealth Secretariat carried out a small research project on the exchange of information about current research in education in the developing countries of the Commonwealth. This followed a suggestion that the Commonwealth Secretariat could usefully serve as a clearing house for the dissemination of such information. The aim of the project was to establish whether or not there was a genuine need for this type of activity and, if so, to assess what form and coverage should be attempted in future editions. It was hoped that such exchange of information would lead to the establishment of useful professional contacts between research personnel.

For the purposes of the project a limited number of Commonwealth countries were invited to provide information on the educational research programmes in progress in their universities and research institutions. To keep the project to a manageable size the information sought was restricted to staff and departmental research activities. The replies received were collated and published in a booklet 'Current Research in Education in Some Developing Countries of the Commonwealth 1968'. The booklet was distributed to the participants, educational research institutions and to prominent educationists throughout the Commonwealth. Comments received from them have confirmed that this exchange of information was indeed valuable, and that an annual or biennial publication with a wider coverage would be an effective contribution to the exchange of information and ideas.

It was therefore decided to compile information on current research in education for the year 1969, laying emphasis on these problems relating to education in the developing countries of the Commonwealth which were the subjects of investigation within those countries as well as in the more advanced countries of the Commonwealth. Following the practice established with the 1968 edition, information was requested only about projects undertaken by faculty members and senior research personnel or as joint departmental activities.

The response to the Secretariat's invitation has been very encouraging. Replies have been received from twenty countries and cover a wide range of topics reflecting the areas of priorities in investigations. Because of the shortage of time not all institutions have been able to supply information, and in some instances detailed accounts of projects could not be provided. It is hoped that future editions will be more complete.

A word about the cataloguing. Countries have been listed geographically from east to west in the hope that this will help identification of areas of research activities on a regional basis, thus promoting meaningful contacts between persons working on similar or complementary subjects.

The Commonwealth Secretariat welcomes comments on the publication and suggestions for the refinement of presentation of information in future editions.