

to coordinate and inspect work-in-progress at the several reservation sites. Dr. Alberts, Principal Investigator, provided overall supervision and guidance in attainment of project objectives. Mr. Jenny, who served as Project Director, and to whom what success the entire undertaking may have is principally due, directed the project throughout, contributing extensively to its conception and implementation, and provided both the material dealing with field research contained in Chapter II (Section B) and the recommendations contained in Sections A, B and D of Chapter V. More than conventional thanks for secretarial support are also due to Miss Jean K. Thompson, one of whose lesser rather than greater tasks as Project Secretary was production of this report.

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In the last analysis, however, it is to the countless reservation residents, men and women, Indian and white—whose contributions of information and whose patience and hospitality in facilitating the work of project researchers made this study possible—that HSR is most indebted.

ABSTRACT

As the Final Report in an eight-month field study undertaken for OEO by Human Sciences Research, Inc., the report explores the impact of OEO Community Action Programs (CAPs) on six selected American Indian reservations, evaluating this effort to win one of the most difficult battles in the War on Poverty and deriving initial guidelines and recommendations toward strengthening the attack.

The six locations at which field research was conducted are the Gila River and Papago Reservations in Arizona, Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico, the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, and the Turtle Mountain and White Earth Chippewa Reservations in North Dakota and Minnesota.

This report first examines the depth of Indian poverty in its course from the inception of the reservation system to and through World War II, prior to the establishment of OEO. The new approach of OEO, entailing for the first time Indian-generated proposals for remedial action and direct funding of Indian bodies for implementation of such proposals is described, and some general analytical notes on the concomitants of poverty provided.

The field research design applied to this task by HSR, combining direct field observation with the testimony of community elements in varying functional relationships to OEO programs and to each other, is then presented. The objectives of interviews in determining the realities of Indian poverty as impacted by CAP components are stated.

Each of the reservations studied is next discussed in terms of the history and culture of its people, the conditions existing at the time CAP components were introduced, and the utilization of CAPs as well as their effect on the Indian people concerned. A range of relevant problems is brought to light, and basic economic imbalances are cited.

Following a synthesis of these findings, involving the structure and orientation of CAPs on these six reservations, based on empirical field data and pertinent literature, thirteen problem categories are isolated and described, with attendant recommendations for action and research toward enhancement of the program as now conceived and operating. Beyond this, the ultimate necessity for actions leading to reservation economic viability is pointed out, if culturally distinct reservation communities, as opposed to individual assimilation, are seriously envisioned.

The synthesis of findings, recommendations, and bibliography are included in all copies of the Final Report, but also appear, separately bound, as the Final Recommendations Report.