Abstracts


These papers constitute a terminal report of the staff of the Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults. Liberal education, defined as a concern for man, is the common thread running through the papers, as reported by the contributors. In addition to a paper devoted to a definition of liberal education, discussions are included on the role of liberal education in professional development and leisure pursuits, and liberal education’s relationship to the growth and development of urban society and to what new science is teaching.


A study aimed at identifying the most effective methods (both traditional and new) for reaching Mexican-American families with Extension educational programs is reported. Content involved foods and nutrition, clothing, home management, consumer education, and family life education. Data from a 1962 bench mark study, a 1964 evaluation study, and a 1968 terminal study are reported.


Papers included are organized under the following categories: education amidst technological and social change; the purpose of education;
the equalization of educational opportunity; freedom and control in education; financing; assessment; the teaching profession; organizing for better schools.


Written for those who take the lead in community, civic, and business affairs, this book deals with general principles and practices of leadership and with conducting specific kinds of meetings.


"The aim of this book," according to the authors, "is to advance our systematic understanding of the manner in which differences in personality, motivation, and ability lead to differences in achievement and creativity." Focus is on formal learning but concern is expressed for converting potential into actual professional attainment. Such topics are dealt with as the following: the nature of abilities; relationships of abilities to scholastic achievement; measuring personality, motivation, and interests; association of environmental factors and achievement; prediction, selection, and cultivation of creativity.


The idea of prevention as conceived in medicine is applied to social work in this monograph. The author's stated intention is to "define the concept of preventive intervention and to apply it to a practice situation in which prevention hypotheses can be tested empirically." He examines the concept in relation to changing family functioning, reporting case studies on three families at different levels of functioning who received preventive services.


This yearbook seeks to describe and explain developments taking place in educational evaluation and to discuss critically their implications, according to the editor. The bulk of the volume is devoted to new developments in evaluation. Also included are discussions of (1) a historical review of changing conceptions of education, (2) major theoretical issues involved in changing from old to new patterns, (3) the potential of new technologies and gaps in available techniques and instruments, and (4) an appraisal of the status of evaluation.
ABSTRACTS


The main goal of this book, as stated by the author, is "to aid the reader in understanding studies involving statistical methods, rather than to prepare him to use such methods." It is gauged, he says, for persons who need to be knowledgeable readers of quantitative research but who lack the desired statistical background. Materials range from basic concepts to (1) statistical methods for assessing differences and (2) methods for assessing relationships.


The results of a project aimed at surveying and analyzing experiences of selected neighborhood action programs in a number of cities are included in this report. Papers are included dealing with such major practice issues as: neighborhood action and lower-class life style; social movement among the poor; the influence of community setting on neighborhood action, goals, and means for social change; and staff role in neighborhood organization. Conference discussions on these issues and the relevance of citizen organizations are also reported.


The case study reported is concerned with change and authority—an analysis of the actions of a top executive who sought to alter formal organization and the responses received in terms of effect on authority structure. The results of dealing with one situation over time indicated that changes in behavior and attitude were not uniform in the departments where reorganizations were undertaken; but they were closely related to changes in authority. Among the questions raised in interpreting findings is whether a rational basis can be found for choosing one design for formal organization over another.


This volume is divided into three parts: text, a reference manual, and a selection of readings. Each of these three divisions is organized around four parts: (1) the elements of education, (2) the organization of education, (3) the profession of teaching, and (4) foundations of education.

The notions of cognitive flexibility and psychological openness are described as important dimensions in effective counseling. Cognitive flexibility is defined as "the capacity to think and act simultaneously and appropriately in a given situation." Psychological openness refers to the degree of self-awareness a person has—for his own feelings, yearnings, impulses, and imagining.


Games with simulated environments as teaching devices is the concern of this collection of papers. The kind of games of concern are intended to teach, and refer mainly to high school students. For the practitioner, the book is considered as an introduction to a "powerful educational technique." In addition to a selection of papers concerned with a rationale for using games, one group reports on the impact of games on learning, as a means of demonstrating the potential. A second group reports on investigations into conditions that affect the impact of games. Another group speculates on directions the field may take. Such games are characterized as "a kind of caricature of social life"—a magnification of some aspect of social interaction.


Based on data collected in the late 1950's, observations are reported on the people, daily public life, and leadership problems in a rapidly changing small community in the Western United States. Analyses of the data are organized around the culture of the community and its leadership and social structure. An addendum (1968) deals with important questions raised about the work, first published in 1965.


Findings from the Arkansas Special Youth Project are reported in this publication. It includes descriptive information on participants in the special four-county program and their families, resources used in the project, the types of subprofessional leadership involved, an analysis of literature used, responses to recognition and incentives, and types of programs included. The project was based on the "demonstration, observation, and evaluation of program action."
ABSTRACTS


The author characterizes this book as presenting some useful tools for thinking about communication and communication systems. It is addressed to the practicing administrator in whatever type organization he may function. General categories of content include (1) the nature and dynamics of human communication, (2) communication, messages, and communication systems, (3) the functions of communication, (4) technology and techniques, and (5) theory and research.

... other current titles


The Green Revolution: Cornucopia or Pandora’s Box? Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. Foreign Affairs, XLVII (April, 1969), 464-76.


Volunteer Teachers in Cooperative Extension. Esther Taskerud and Bernice Straw. Adult Leadership, XVIII (June, 1969), 53-54.