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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN CHILD WELFARE

The central task during the International Year of the Child and the Decade of the Filipino Child is the promotion of public awareness that children do have problems and in fact do need urgent solutions for them. Indeed, people are not even aware just who are children and what are their rights.

An integrated information system directed at communities propels people to establish and improve the quality of basic services for children, as well as accelerate the delivery of these much needed social,health, and educational services. Recognising this need, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) has instituted a management informationa system which sets up a "public education and communication program and an exchange, re-ferral, and information service on child and youth welfare."

To gain the widest possible dissemination of information on children and their special needs, a unit at the IYC secretariat has been set up to establish close relations and coordination with information offices of state and private child and youth welfare agencies. The unit also monitor IYC year-round activities and projects, reviews plans and ongoing as well as completed projects, as well as promotes and collates reasearch and statistics on children.

Basic services for children have also been evaluated and inventoried, with the idea that these services can be maximixed if people are aware that they exists. For instance, the Minister of Health has approved the inventory of basic services for children in health care. Identification of these health services will promote the people's use for them, encourage faster

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delivery of health services, and also identify where the basic services
are lacking.

Almost every weekend, a pool of media men meet with researchers and
social scientists concerned with the welfare of children. The meetings
help to disseminate to the public the special needs of children, their
problems, and the programmes which support children's rights and well-
being.

The pool of media men represents various sectors of the country's
mass communications system: from members of the country's various news-
papers, magazines, and news agencies, to radio and television communica-
tors. Researches and children's problems are presented to the media for
widest possible dissemination of information. In this way, the public
is made more aware of the problems which beset the country's childrens
and community and government efforts to help alleviate the situation.

Particular emphasis is made to inform children, below 21 years old, in
or out of school, on their rights and problems. Government and private agen-
cies dedicated to child and youth welfare also are target groups for this
nationwide information system, as well as the personnel of on-going pro-
jects under the Council for the Welfare of Children's IYC-Decade programs.
Most specially, the general public is the main target group for this inte-
grated information campaign.

After the year is out, the management information system will be carried
over to three other regions besides the Capital region where Metro Mla.
belongs. By 1981, six other regions will be incorporated into the system,
nine more regions by 1982, and a year later, all 12 regions in the country
will be covered by the management information system. In this way, thwn the
Decade of the Filipino Child is under way, a comprehensive information sys-
tem will have been set up.