

The Global Development Project

These materials provide for the integration of global development issues into existing family and consumer economics courses. Each topic -- Measurement, Household Production, Population and Housing & Household Technology -- includes text and an interactive computer exercise.

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Global development, and the attendant problems of poorer countries around the world seem far removed from the bustling markets of countries like the United States. Yet the well being of Americans is intertwined with the well being of others around the world. Only one consumer in five lives in a high income country. This affluent minority will surely suffer if some measure of prosperity isn't shared around the globe. That thinking provides the context for this series.

Many faculty members recognize that most students are sadly unaware of global development issues. However, the absence of appropriate materials and curricular limitations hinder course development. *The Global Development Project* deals with both problems. It provides materials which are flexible and may be adapted to the needs of individual faculty. New courses are avoided by integrating global development into existing coursework. Lessons are geared to students with little background or understanding of global issues.

Each lesson module contains textual material and an interactive computer exercise. The text can be used by students or could serve to augment lecture notes. The computer exercises are on *Authorware*, an interactive program which can be run on any recent Macintosh computer. No additional software is needed to run the programs. Guided by on-screen instructions, students load the disk and then work their way through the exercises (lessons may also be loaded onto a network). Students make choices, receiving feedback as they go. The exercises provide drill in an interactive environment which gives students "hands-on experience" with the material.

The first module is *Measurement & Classification*. "Measurement" refers to well being and "classification" to the distinctions between the richer countries of the *North* and the less developed countries of the *South*. The *Household Production* module is the most straightforward, developing the model in textbook fashion. The module could be used as part of any introduction to household production, with added applications to the South.

The emphasis in *Population Issues* is on the different demographic patterns in the North and South and the forces behind the latter's higher population growth rates. Coverage of fertility links the material to household production. Subject matter for the *Housing and Household Technology* module links the latter with the larger issue of energy use and related questions of sustainable development. Coverage of housing is linked to policy.

The modules may be used in a variety of ways. Taken together, they constitute a set, but each one stands alone and may be used separately. Thus, individual modules may be used in different classes. Regardless of how they are applied, the materials offer a flexible way to use new educational technology while incorporating increasingly important content into existing courses.

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Endnote

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