

Answers on remaining issues during the consideration of the Initial report (CRC/C/51/Add.4) of the Netherlands Antilles, at the thirtieth Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, June 5th, 2002

Education

- The renewal of the educational system in the Netherlands Antilles is not based on the Dutch system, but on a combination experiences and knowledge coming from Escuela Nueva in Brasilia and from the high school systems of the United States.
- Indeed the ordinance on the compulsory education is not effectively executed. That is why, parliament is now considering an amendment to improve the aspects of monitoring and sanctioning of non-compliance.
- In the Foundation Based Education, the instruction language will be the mother tongue during the first cycle. That means Papiamentoe on the Leeward islands en English on the Windward islands. In the Second cycle parents will be entitled to choose the language of instruction. This will be made possible by means of a survey among the parents, supervised by the Minister of Education.

Youth policy 1999 – 2003

- The last listed objective is aimed to better prepare students who are going for further studies to Holland, because some concerns exists on dropout rates under these students. Also there is a concern about the fact that a large number of student choose to stay in Holland after graduation instead of returning to the Netherlands Antilles.

Sustained Youth policy 2003 –2006

- The results of the Youth monitor 2000 and the recommendation of the Youth summit Reproductive Health Rights have been partially incorporated into policy.

Cause of death for the 15-24 age group

Correction needs to be made on the reply given to the distinguished member by ms Al Thani on the cause of death for the age group 15 – 24 years. Causes of death linked to violence are traffic accidents and indeed homicide and not suicide. We regret the confusion on the wording.

Teenage pregnancies

Outreach programs to prevent teenage pregnancies and to give teenage mothers the necessary guidance vary on the different islands and are executed by NGO's; for example SIFMA on the Windward islands, Family Planning on Curacao and Sebiki on Bonaire.

National Policy for disabled persons

This policy-document was a first step in the inventory of the position of the disabled persons in the Netherlands Antilles and has led to a general insurance for the special medical costs, which includes disabled persons. Of course policy will not remain only here. Hopefully in the second report additional information could be provided on other areas of progress to this respect. Disparities in the present policy is indeed present, the recommendation to look seriously into this matter will be conveyed to the Government.

Illiteracy differences between boys and girls

- According to the 2001 Census there are slight differences.

Results census 2001	Male	Female	Total
0-14 years	32 (48%)	35 (52%)	67 (100%)
15 – 24 years	527 (56%)	414 (44%)	941 (100%)