DISCOVERING THE STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have become a universal framework for development and developing countries for the 2015 target date. The main strategy was declared as being partners working together in pursuit of a shared future for all. To achieve the Goals, every nation’s development strategies must be aligned with the goals. Universities must be concerned with the strategies as Land Grant Institution Model. Poverty, child mortality, lack of employment, gender inequalities, rapid and unplanned urbanization, deforestation, and water scarcity are some critical problems in the developing world. Several developing countries are demonstrating that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is possible with adequate financial and technical support from the international community. Reaching the MDGs goals will require comprehensive programs for human development, particularly in education and health, as well as building productive capacity and improved physical infrastructure. Success in achieving the MDGs in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries cannot be done by these countries alone.

The objectives of this study are to explain the structure of Discovering, Research, Extension, and Development Institutions at the University of Nevada, Reno, a Land-Grand University in the twenty-first century that may help reaching MDGs in developing countries. The materials of the study were collected during the visit of academicians at Selcuk University to UNR in the Summer, 2008. With respect to MDGs, some institutions working at UNR have comprehensive programs such as natural resource conservation and environment, alternative agriculture, families, youth-4H, and community development. The MDG and related programs at UNR were determined as follows:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Alternative Agriculture Program by Cooperative Extension (UNCE) with collaboration of other faculties at UNR).
2. Achieve universal primary education (Families and Youth-4H Programs by UNCE with collaboration of other faculties at UNR).
3. Promote gender equality and empower women (Families Programs by UNCE with collaboration of faculties as well as Women Studies Center at UNR).
4. Reduce child mortality (Families Programs by UNCE with collaboration of faculties as well as Women Studies Center at UNR).
5. Improve maternal health (Families Programs by UNCE with collaboration of faculties as well as School of Medicine at UNR).
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases (Families Programs by UNCE with collaboration of faculties as well as School of Medicine at UNR).
7. Ensure environmental sustainability (Natural Resources and Environment Program by UNCE with the collaboration of faculties at UNR).
8. Develop a global partnership for development (International Office, faculties, Small Business Development Center, Statistics Center for research design and Analysis (CRDA),
University Center for Economic Development and International Program in Agriculture at UNR).

The programs help resolve conflicts over public lands, prevent damage to environment, empower producers to conduct activities that are more profitable and manage water and environmental resources wisely, enhance parenting and communication skills, preventing child abuse and violent behaviors, encourage healthy eating habits and lifestyles, preventing chronic disease and saving health-care costs, enable local people and economies to prosper. Some impacts of the programs were reducing destructive juvenile behavior in rural communities, developing self-esteem, responsibility, and leadership, and getting a healthy jump-start for kids, quality of life for citizens, and youth and child-care facilities. The institutional collaborative multidisciplinary structure at UNR is structured around needs assessment, collaboration, creativity and development and delivering quality programs and impact assessment.

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