

South Dakota State University
**Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional
Repository and Information Exchange**

Economics Commentator

Department of Economics

11-15-1973

More About the Human Needs Assessment Survey

Dale E. Roth

South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/econ_comm

 Part of the [Agricultural and Resource Economics Commons](#), and the [Regional Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Roth, Dale E., "More About the Human Needs Assessment Survey" (1973). *Economics Commentator*. Paper 31.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/econ_comm/31

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Economics at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Economics Commentator by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.



Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

• South Dakota State University

• Brookings 57006

• (605) 688-4141

No. 32

November 15, 1973

MORE ABOUT THE HUMAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Editor's Note: Economics Newsletter 24 dated July 12, 1973 carried a partial report of a Survey on Human Needs in Planning and Development District Number One conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Social Sciences at S.D.S.U. Interviews were obtained from 1,845 households and 61 institutionalized elderly persons during the last quarter of 1972 in this ten-county area. Some further analysis is included here.

Employment and the local economy were among the top concerns of the First District residents interviewed.

EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Underemployment was a definite problem in District One: 10 percent of the total labor force were multiple job-holders, 15 percent of principal wage earners had part-time jobs in addition to full-time employment but held one or more part-time jobs instead, and 9 percent had jobs that were seasonal.

EDUCATION FOR JOBS

One out of three respondents was concerned that he did not have enough education to get a "good" job or advance in his present occupation. One out of five principal "breadwinners" said he was dissatisfied with his occupation and would prefer different work. Little diversification in employment existed. Fifty five percent of the employed people interviewed were occupied in farming, or in professional, technical and man-

agerial positions.

WELFARE REJECTED

Salaried and wage-earning employees overwhelmingly rejected the idea of receiving welfare or other public assistance in the event that they lost their jobs, but were inclined toward self-employment if faced with this problem. However, this would require greater management skills than they presently possessed, along with potentially substantial sums of money required to make the adjustment.

APPROACHES TO JOB IMPROVEMENT

Expanded efforts to improve the quality of jobs in the District are needed. Approaches to achieving this include: access to low-cost credit and other incentives for expansion of local enterprises, coupled with management education, in order to create new jobs. This would be in line with respondents' stated needs relating to underemployment and lack of education needed to get "good" jobs or advance in present ones. For salaried workers, vocational educational grants or stipends and more on-the-job training appears to be indicated.

Almost half of the respondents were interested in attending adult education courses, with the strongest demand for vocational classes. Most interest was expressed among persons 26-30 years of age.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Nearly half of the respondents indicated a desire for expanded adult education in academic subjects, hobbies and crafts and homemaking. Three-fourths indicated a need for more drug education for parents and almost as many said there should be more drug education for youth.

INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESS

Management ability, hard work, access to credit and experience were named by most farmers as the ingredients of success. A significant percentage of the farmers did not think a number of the agencies available to them were helpful. However, a large percentage did not appear to be fully aware of the services available to them. Educational factors did not rank as high with them.

Thirty-eight percent of the businessmen surveyed in the First District owned part or all of another business. Fifty-five percent of the businessmen said they were faced with shrinking incomes with only about one-half of them doing much to overcome the problem.

The self-employed businessmen agreed with the farmers as to the factors contributing to success: management ability, hard work, experience and access to credit.

SUMMARY

In summary, the study indicated the need to examine how to improve employment, and business and farm management as well as the general economic environment in the District.

Small business investment corporations might help fill credit needs. This could assist in creating more job opportunities and improving the business climate.

Increased emphasis on various types of educational programs might help upgrade people as well as their jobs and their satisfactions with them.

This brief report touches only a very small portion of the data provided through the NEEDS Survey. Anyone interested in taking a closer look may contact Model Rural Development, Watertown, or the Institute of Social Science Wenona Hall, SDSU, Brookings.

Dale E. Roth, NEEDS Project Leader

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Brookings, S. D. 57006
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101

