

Recovery of the Collective Memory and Projection into the Future: ASOPRICOR

Researchers: Jose Reyes, Janeth Valero (ASOPRICOR), Gayle Broad (Algoma University College)

Project Summary

This Participatory Action Research project is examining the intergenerational issues related to building the community's capacity to continue its efforts in holistic development and explore opportunities to build/extend networks of learning at regional, national, and international levels. The Community Economic and Social Development program at Algoma University College is partnering with ASOPRICOR, a rural association engaged in holistic development in Colombia. There are 12 municipalities (600 families) involved and the organization has been working in the Alto Magdalena area and outlying communities since 1978. Asopricor's mission is: holistic development of rural and urban communities; organisations of communities to maintain their autonomy, and community, economic, and social development.

Activities and Findings to Date

The first phase of the project, the preparation stage, is complete. Activities included ongoing communications between the Canadian and Colombian teams; nine meetings of the co-ordination team in Colombia; an assembly of the ASOPRICOR membership; three training sessions in research methodology for community facilitators, ASOPRICOR board members, and the research secretary; and a meeting of the children of ASOPRICOR members. As a result of the discussions outlined above, ASOPRICOR has identified three major stages to the research: definition of the research; data collection; and analysis, approval, and publication.

Researchers have completed the definition of the research, addressing:

- context, identity, and objectives of the research
- ASOPRICOR's spirit of resistance, recuperation, autonomy, and development of alternatives in consideration of culture, politics, economy, and interaction with nature
- what has ASOPRICOR been doing to date; what does it need to do? with which method?
- resources on hand and resources needed
- definition and role of community facilitators; definition and role of focus communities
- tools for data collection; the training process; the evaluation process
- plan for the next five years

Community Partner: ASOPRICOR

Status of Project: Phase one is complete. Phase two, investigation, including data collection and analysis and expansion of the process within the communities, is underway and will be concluded by December 2009.

ASOPRICOR's Vision

