

3. *Decision-oriented research* has a much narrower aim than either policy research or conclusion-oriented research. It is concerned with the practical problems involved in the implementation of policy decisions, and the application of available social-science research findings to the solution of social problems. It is concerned not so much with the question of *what* should be done as with the question of *how* it can be done; how a given program can be implemented most effectively and economically. Given the policy objectives, we must first decide how to solve the problem, and then how to solve it in the best way. These are decision-oriented research problems.

Decision-oriented research is also concerned with the evaluation of programs already initiated to determine how they can be made more efficient and effective in achieving their stated purposes. The essential purpose of this type of research is to provide decision-makers with accurate information on alternative courses of action which may be available. It is this type of applied, problem-solving research capability which is not now available at the federal level in Canada. It is the view of the Committee that the lack of such a capability has contributed to the lack of systematic planning and co-ordination of federal and federal-provincial programs across the whole field of human and social welfare. Furthermore, failure to fill this gap will jeopardize effective implementation of the proposals and recommendations made in this report and lay the groundwork for similar reviews, studies, and reports in the future.

Recommendations:

1. That a Council for Applied Social Research be established at the national level

- a) to be responsible for comprehensive human-resource development and social-welfare research of an applied nature;
- b) to co-ordinate and encourage the dissemination of the research information available on social problems, and on poverty in particular;
- c) to conduct and disseminate applied research on social problems;
- d) to develop national social indicators;
- e) to be concerned with research on social problems as they affect groups within our society—the young, the old, single heads of families, and native, immigrant, and other minorities, etc.; and,
- f) to be responsible for development and refinement of the G.A.I. proposal made herein and to prepare plans for implementation.

CONCLUSIONS

Our discussion has focussed on several inter-related problems. First, it has been argued that dealing with the problem of poverty in Canada effectively