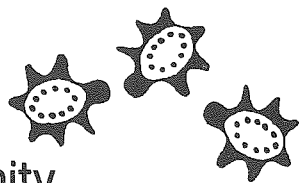


brings poverty to the majority and takes from us our feeling for life, which is the most important thing there is.

Organizations are not made for us. They must be created. Begin with your home. At home we have trust. Trust is the seed.



Educational Efforts In Otavalo Community

Mariana Chuquin, a Quichua Indian from Otavalo, Ecuador, who is visiting in San Francisco, recently made the following comments on education in her community:

For those of us living in rural communities, it's very hard to educate our children. It is important to us that there is good bi-lingual education that strengthens our culture and communities. But many children are needed in the family's effort to survive economically, so they can't attend school. And the government gives very little support to education in rural communities. Most children don't go beyond the fourth grade.

In my community, Mariano Acosta, it is the community itself and the school teacher who work together to make an education possible for our children. The community organizes *mingas* (community work groups) to construct roads, the school building, and other community buildings. Sometimes we have to use our imagination to make educational equipment and materials. Every week we organize in *mingas* to improve our community, to continue forward each day for the future of our children.

Indian Voters Major Factor In Elections

The greatly increased political organization of Indian communities was cited as a major factor in the overwhelming rejection June 1 of a constitutional referendum proposed by Ecuador's conservative government, according to Juan Aulestia, Oxfam America program representative for South America.

Speaking at a meeting jointly sponsored by SAIIC and Oxfam America in Berkeley on June 19, Juan said that the growing realization among Indian communities that they can be a majority of the electorate was one of the most impressive developments he observed during a recent trip to Ecuador, which is his native country.

Juan said that the conservative government of President León Febres Cordero has moved to undermine Indian political organizations by renewing government support for the Summer Institute of Linguistics, an evangelical organization ordered to leave Ecuador by a previous government under pressure from Indian groups. The government has also created "ghost" organizations which it claims represent Indian interests as a means of spreading disunity in Indian communities.

