

# 1

## PROFILE OF A DROPOUT



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DROPPING OUT

**Worksheet:** Pages 34 and 35

**Learner's Workbook:** Pages 3 and 4

1. Encourage volunteers to read the questions on worksheet pages 34 and 35 of this Manual and pages 3 and 4 of the Learner's Workbook one by one. After each question, ask the group if they know the answers. Accept all responses. Then have a volunteer read the answer from the worksheet.
2. Have three pairs of volunteers role-play a situation where a student goes to a friend to say he is dropping out of school. The friend tries to get the student to change his mind by giving him some good reasons to stay in school. Afterward, the audience decides if there are any other good reasons the friend may have left out.

### PROFILE OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

**Worksheet:** Page 36

**Learner's Workbook:** Page 5

1. Ask volunteers to read each of the points on worksheet page 36 of this Manual and page 5 of the Learner's Workbook. Then ask learners: *Were the students in the profile born successful? Or are they working hard to be successful?*
2. Write two headings where everyone can see: *Dropout* and *Successful Student*. Then ask volunteers to tell you some characteristics of each group. (*Dropout: Hangs with people who do drugs, is not willing to work; wants every thing NOW. Successful Student: Participates in class, willing to work and wait for what he wants....What else?*)
3. Ask learners in which column they would place themselves.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DROPPING OUT

- Q. Do dropouts quit school because their parents were dropouts?
- A. Studies show that a young person is more likely to drop out of school if he has family members or close friends who have dropped out of school. But that's not a *reason*; it's just something that makes it a little harder to succeed in school.
- Q. What about girls? Do they drop out of school because they get pregnant?
- A. Many girls say they drop out of school because of pregnancy or marriage. But some girls say they drop out because "school is hard."
- Q. Are dropouts just dumb?
- A. No. Dropouts are not dumb. Some do have difficulty in school — but there is help available for those who want it. Some dropouts say they're too smart to be going to school. If that's the case, they should take advantage of the situation and try to get a college scholarship. If they don't want to go to college, they should take the GED Test so they have more job opportunities.
- Q. Do dropouts who go back to school have a hard time finding a job when they graduate?
- A. No. Dropouts who go back and get their high school diplomas have many more job opportunities than those who don't. In the end, they have a much better chance of finding a rewarding, good-paying job.
- Q. What are the most effective ways of keeping students from dropping out of school?
- A. (1) Encourage youth to participate in extracurricular activities. Studies show that students who are more involved at school are less likely to drop out. (2) Make sure students know where to get help if they are having difficulty with their schoolwork. (3) Have a dropout prevention counselor at every school (someone the students can speak to when they are considering becoming a dropout — and from whom they can get the facts about the hardships of dropping out of school).



# PROFILE OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

- ❑ Successful students think about the future, not just about today.
- ❑ They choose their friends wisely, surrounding themselves with people who have the same goals they do. Other people's envy doesn't bother them.
- ❑ Successful students will get jobs to help their families when necessary, but will still keep their goals in mind and work toward them.
- ❑ Successful students will postpone marriage and having children until they are well on their way to achieving their goals.
- ❑ Some people come from families that make it hard to break away from poverty. But successful students think of that as a hurdle to jump over, not a brick wall.
- ❑ Successful students who don't speak English as a first language will seek help from counselors and tutors; others will take ESL (English as a second language) courses at a community college. A successful student wants to speak English well.
- ❑ Long before graduation day, the successful student has planned his next step, whether it be college, technical, or vocational training. Whatever successful students take on, they won't quit; they will work hard toward achieving their goals. They may not always succeed at everything they do, but they'll always try.

**Success comes in cans; failure comes in can'ts.**

