

30 May 1975

Isfahan, 25 - 30 May 1975

## CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Conclusions

1.1 The seminar concluded that higher priority and greater orientation needs to be given in the health training institutions of the Region, including the medical schools to the teaching of community aspects of medicine, and specially to the teaching of MCH and Family Planning in the interested countries.

1.2 The seminar further concluded that for effective teaching in these subjects, it is essential to develop appropriate Field Training Areas, carefully selected, in order to provide therein adequate learning opportunities to the students by the side and in the midst of the community.

### 2. Proposed Recommendations

#### 2.1 To Universities, Medical Schools and Other Institutions Teaching Health Personnel

2.1.1 The seminar recommends that increased priority be given to the teaching of the multiple aspects of Community Medicine, with added priority to MCH and Family Planning, in all health training institutions of the Region, specially medical schools.

2.1.2 A revision of the curricula of medical schools is urgently needed to provide new community orientation to the needs of MCH and Family Planning. This should be based on careful definition of the objectives of the educational process which should start with a functional analysis specifying the roles and responsibilities of each member of the health team. This may require significant changes in the regulations of national regulatory councils controlling the educational institutions.

2.1.3 It is recommended that all training institutions give top priority to establishing a sound organizational base for the development of a Field Training Area by providing the necessary support and facilities; arranging for and ensuring the allocation of student time; and appointing properly oriented staff, including clinical teachers in medical schools.

2.1.4 Because community orientation to the massive needs of rural areas, especially for MCH and Family Planning, requires continuity and careful staging of the educational sequence, it is recommended that learning experiences in the FTA start from the first year and extend throughout the training period.

2.1.5 Educational institutions should take the initiative in approaching official health agencies and other government departments (including Finance and Planning) so as to ensure cooperation and full participation of health services personnel in teaching, research and service activities. In the same time, it is essential to ensure the involvement and cooperation of communities themselves in both planning and implementation of FTAs.

## 2.2 To Ministries of Health and Other Concerned Official Agencies of Governments

2.2.1 Since official health agencies will benefit most from innovative efforts to produce community oriented health personnel, especially those who will work in MCH and Family Planning, it is strongly recommended that they actively promote and support the establishment and continuing development of FTAs.

2.2.2 Health service personnel should be delegated, as much as possible, to part-time teaching in the FTAs and such contributions should be recognized through faculty appointments, adequate remuneration, and other appropriate incentives.

2.2.3 Official health agencies have also much to gain from the field research on required community services, specially those oriented to MCH and Family Planning, and including those related to demographic and epidemiological surveys which should be conducted in FTAs. Therefore, it is strongly urged that health ministries and other concerned official agencies actively sponsor and support such surveys and research efforts.

2.2.4 For each FTA it is recommended that a joint committee with representation from the teaching institution, official agencies concerned and local communities provide for coordination, planning and implementation.

## 2.3 To the World Health Organization

2.3.1 Recognizing the valuable contribution of the World Health Organization in its continuing efforts to promote commitment to the use of FTAs for the teaching of Community Health, MCH and Family Planning it is strongly urged that these highly commendable efforts be expanded through continued direct contacts and negotiations with governments and institutions to stimulate the required educational innovations.

2.3.2 To follow up this seminar, it is recommended that an appropriate implementation mechanism be established, preferably through direct contacts with individuals in key positions throughout the Region and through the provision of a continuing flow of information and educational material.

2.3.3 It is recommended that further seminars and meetings be held at local, national and regional levels to promote an expanded educational impact and implementation.

2.3.4 Two-way visits are also recommended: there should be arrangements for consultants and advisors to visit institutions which are establishing FTAs, and the staff of such institutions should have opportunity to visit ongoing successful FTAs.

2.3.5 Because successful implementation of FTAs depends largely on faculty development, it is recommended that the World Health Organization fellowship programme gives priority to the training of teachers in the disciplines of Community Medicine, MCH and Family Planning