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HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE HEALTH
EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION
ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY

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I ORGANIZATION

1. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, cooperating with all the official and voluntary organizations in Turkey, directs, regulates and coordinates health education activities.

For this purpose it can benefit from the following organizations:

a) Directorate General of Health Education and Medical Statistics.

The department of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare that will be in charge of the health education activities, should take its position in the Ministry side by side with the well established departments of Hygiene and Social Welfare. The existing Directorate General of Health Education and Medical Statistics should resume this function. Later, when it will be possible, it will be advisable to change the name of this directorate general, by a law of organization, to the "Directorate General of Health Education and Sanitary Statistics!"

b) The National Institute of Health Education. The Institute that is being established for this purpose will be an advisory and executive organ attached to the Directorate General of Health Education and Sanitary Statistics and will resume all the responsibilities connected with health education. Accordingly it will prepare the general plan of health education of the country, will put in the order of priority the problems to be tackled and the areas to be considered according to the results obtained from the surveys and studies made

directly by the Institute, or carried out through its instructions, will study the educational methods and accept and advise the use of the suitable ones, will prepare and help the preparation of health education material, and will organize courses and post-graduate courses to train health education experts and auxiliary health educators. The Institute carries out all these functions with the help of and in complete agreement with the Technical Commission of Health Education.

The National Institute of Health Education will also be in contact with other official and voluntary organizations and will get from them documents showing their activities in the field of health education, and in agreement with the Technical Commission, will give them advice and make suggestions.

c) The Council of Health Education of the Public. It will be advisable that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will come to an agreement with the National Committee of Health Education of the Public to have a special advisory council that will study all the principles and activities of the Technical Commission pertaining health education, such as its doctrine, technical programme, and the educational material, and give its opinion and viewpoints on the subject to the Ministry.

d) The Technical Commission of the National Institute of Health Education. It is advisable to have a Technical Commission of Health Education that will be composed of the Director.General of Health Education and Sanitary Statistics, the Director of the Institute of Health Education and three other members selected by the National Committee of Health Education. This Commission will give technical assistance to the Institute in its activities and will cooperate with it.

II REGULATIONS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

There is no need for preparing a new law for the above mentioned three organizations. Taking advantage of the statement "... it establishes institutions of Health Education." in the Article 280 of the Public Health Law already in force, the Ministry can establish them, issuing the regulations necessary for their functioning.

III. SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH EDUCATION TO BE ESTABLISHED

It is most appropriate that the National Institute of Health Education has been established in the School of Hygiene. Thus, during the time remaining after the School of Hygiene's activities of only three months duration, that is to say, during the three thirds of the year, it will be possible to take advantage of the educational facilities of the School, arranging several courses. And later, when the activities of the Institute become greater, it will be possible to use some other empty rooms adjacent to the rooms already allotted to the Institute.

It is especially advisable to have a foreign expert of the World Health Organization at the head of the Institute to prepare the programme of its activities and to direct it temporarily.

The person that will later replace this foreign expert should be selected immediately, and be sent abroad for at least six months to study in a similar institute.

Two other doctors that will work at the Institute should be given scholarships by the World Health Organization to be sent abroad.

Also a pedagogue that will later work at the Institute should be sent abroad to be trained for health education.

Moreover, the following list of personnel is being suggested:

- 1 Secretary - interpreter
- 1 Typist
- 1 Administrating official
- 1 Film operator

Some of these persons may be selected from among the existing officials of the Ministry of Health.

IV. CURRICULA OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND FOR THE TRAINING OF HEALTH EDUCATORS

At present, as is the case in many other countries, it is impossible to train health educators in our country.

The actual aim of the training of health educators should be to give the necessary information to those who can practise health education because of their professional or social activities.

To be able to attain this end two types of programmes can be envisaged:

a) To include health education in school curricula. This is a field wherein the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, taking advantage of the right the law gives it, can render the greatest service on the subject of health education. Article 281 of the Public Health Law shows this distinctly. According to this Article: "In all schools, instructions in hygiene in accordance with the latest scientific information, will be compulsory. These lessons are given by experts, and the contents of the subject matter are fixed by the Ministries of Education and Health and Social Welfare."

Basing on this Article, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, in compliance with the suggestions of the Advisory and Technical Committees of Health Education, and in agreement with the Ministry of Education, should introduce these instructions to the curricula of all schools operated by official, semi-official, voluntary, and private bodies. For the universities enjoying special laws, the Ministry of Health should take the necessary steps to reach an agreement for the inclusion of these subjects in their curricula.

b) Health education instructions at the National Institute of Health Education. As the Institute is located at the School of Hygiene, it is in a very favourable position to give health education instructions on a large scale. Here instructions of various types can be arranged to train health educators and health educators' aids in as great numbers as possible. Among others, the following measures may be taken:

Series of special lectures and courses may be organized for the above mentioned students who have, in their schools, obtained some information on this subject.

The officials of great industrial institutions, the members of voluntary organizations and other similar groups also may benefit from programmes prepared to suit their requirements.

These instructions should be completed with audio-visual aid facilities and projections of educational films. There should also be colloquies and seminars.

For those already engaged in various instructions, periodic refresher courses may be arranged.

c) Scholarships for foreign countries. Facilities should be prepared to send every year several students to foreign countries with scholarships.

Summary of the report

1. The responsibility of health education activities should be resumed by the General Directorate of Health Education and Medical Statistics at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Later, the title of this department may be modified as the General Directorate of Health Education and Sanitary **Statistics.**

2. The National Committee of Health Education of the Public will be an advisory organ of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in all its activities on the subject of health education.

3. The establishment of the National Institute of Health Education as a subordinate body of the General Directorate of Health Education and Medical Statistics to be an executive organ of all health education activities.

4. The establishment of a Technical Committee of Health Education composed of five members including the Director-General of Health Education and Medical Statistics, the Director of the National Institute of Health Education and three members selected by the National Committee of Health Education of the Public. This Committee will cooperate with the National Institute of Health Education and help it in all its health education activities.

5. The introduction of modern hygiene courses into the curricula of all schools, basing on the articles of Public Health Law, and cooperating with the Ministry of Education.

6. The training of health educators, and health educators' aids at the National Institute, and the organization, for this purpose, of courses and post-graduate courses of health education.

7. To have, through the courtesy of the World Health Organization, an expert director from abroad to administer the activities of the National Institute of Health Education for at least a year.

8. To select immediately the person that will later replace the foreign director and send him abroad to study health education.

9. Moreover, two other doctors and a pedagogue should be sent abroad to be trained for health education.

The Scheme or Plan showing the Health
Education Organization of the
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

