

Highlights of the School of Public Health.

A. Description:

The School of Public Health is a post graduate teaching Institution, being developed within the frame-work of the Institute of Public Health under the Ministry of Public Health. It is located in Kabul, the Capital of Afghanistan.

The school of Public Health was established in 1970. It imparts post graduate training to young Physicians and develops their skills and capabilities to work in Public Health Services i.e. Basic Health Services and the control of communicable diseases programmes in an efficient manner.

In the beginning the School was providing a nine months course. The curriculum was subsequently revised to offer a comprehensive course of 18 months leading to academic diploma in Public Health.

B. Academic Staff:

Presently, the School of Public Health has a strength of 14 qualified teaching staff. Five of them are fulltime Afghan Nationals while the rest are composed of international experts and part-time teachers, holding double appointments either in the Ministry of Public Health or in the School of Medicine, University of Kabul. In the beginning a J.H.O. Consultant assisted the Institute in its organisation and preparation of curriculum. The assistance was, however, continued only for a period of two years.

C. Student body:

There are extremely small numbers of students enrolled in the School of Public Health because the newly graduated Physicians prefer a career of clinical medicine instead of working in Public Health Services.

The number of students graduated from the school, since its establishment in the year 1970, are mentioned below:-

<u>Academic Year.</u>	<u>No. Graduated.</u>
1971-72	9
1972-73	9
1973-74	8
1974-75	6

There are six students under training for the academic year 1976-77 and they will graduate in August 1977. The program is of general nature and is intended to provide necessary knowledge, skill and attitude for physicians and other Health personnel to work efficiently and effectively in the health care system of the country. As mentioned before, the school is still continuing the course of 18 months duration and it is composed of one year theoretical training in various disciplines of public Health and six months of clinical training program in the hospitals. The second part of the program was specifically designed to re-orient and give some clinical experiences to the participants. This would enable them to tackle the emergency situations in the Health Centers in the rural areas and Provinces.

Simultaneously each year refresher courses are being conducted at the Institute for provincial Public Health Officers. Besides this, short orientation courses are carried for all categories of health personnel, which include Lab. Technician, Assistant Pharmacists, Sanitarian as well as Nursing Personnel.

D. Teaching activities:

The curriculum has been reviewed in close consultation with the Faculty of the School of Medicine and other Experts in the field. The intention has been to improve the content of and establish close linkage between the curriculum and the

job description of the Health Officers after their graduation from the School of Public Health. This measure would enable the training program to become more appropriate to meet the need of the community.

Furthermore attempts have been made to produce more printed reading material to facilitate the teaching process and emphasise more on ^{discussion} dissemination and demonstration instead of theoretical session.

E. Research Activities:

As the school is a part of the Institute of Public Health, the staff have also double responsibility in the conduct of research and training activities. Therefore in addition to the conduct of training programs, various research projects have been taken up in different areas which include, communicable diseases, environmental health, health education, nutrition and maternal and child health.

F. Service Activities:

So far the School of Public Health has not been involved in service delivery activities. But the Institute of Public Health is the reference center for all laboratory examinations with regard to Microbiology, Chemistry, Food and Drug Analysis and Toxicology in the country.

G. Co-operation and Collaboration:

Close co-operation exists between the School of Public Health and the School of Medicine, University of Kabul. The exchange of Professors takes place on regular basis and both sides have free and very easy access to the library and the training facilities of the other.

As it was mentioned earlier this co-operation has gone more further and the School of Public Health has been officially affiliated with the School of Medicine and the Academic Diploma in Public Health offered by the School is officially recognised by the University.

H. Objective:

The primary objective of the School of Public Health is the provision of post-graduate training for Physicians and other health personnel in various disciplines in Public Health.

It also includes the in-service and continuous education of health personnel to meet the needs of the health care system.

This objective fits into the over-all main objectives of Afghan National Health Program which is in the framework of the Government Seven Years Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Health Manpower development being the most important element of the Afghan National Health Program, it has obtained high priority in the program. Its aim is to maintain a balance between demand and supply of health personnel and to maintain a cadre of health personnel through present form of training with a defined level of knowledge, skill, attitude and behaviour.

To achieve the objectives it is deemed necessary-

1. To establish and maintain inter-sectorial cooperation and collaboration.
2. To promote and apply appropriate health manpower methods,
3. To review periodically the health man-power development policy of the country with a view to effectively implement the Afghan National Health Program.

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