

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SEVENTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OR  
REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOLS OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

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Progress reports and highlights of the  
development in public health teaching/  
research/community services since the  
last meeting at Manila in 1975

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A. Institute of Post-graduate Medicine  
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This Institute was established in 1974 (vide Section D). 27 Courses for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene have been held by the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Sri Lanka, since 1948. 279 students have been awarded this Diploma.

For the first time a course for a degree equivalent to the D.P.H. or M.P.H. was established in 1974 - the Master's degree in Medical Science (Community Medicine) - M.Med.Sc. (Community Medicine). It was organized by the then Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (now Community Medicine) of the Peradeniya Campus of the University of Sri Lanka. The Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine of the Colombo Campus of this University also participated in the designing of the curriculum in the teaching programme and in the evaluation for this degree.

B. Academic staff

Only full time teachers and visiting lecturers participated in the teaching

Full time - Colombo Campus - 6  
Peradeniya Campus - 6

Visiting Lecturers: Colombo Campus - 30  
Peradeniya Campus - Not available

The visiting lecturers were physicians employed by the Ministry of Health, i.e. those employed in specialized work such as the Epidemiologist, Superintendents of Malaria, Tuberculosis Campaigns, etc.

C. Student body

Seven students enrolled and were awarded the M.Med.Sc. (Community Medicine) in 1974.

Ten students (all from Sri Lanka) were selected for the new course for the degree of Doctorate in Medicine (M.D. Community Medicine) to commence in 1977. This four year course is to be conducted by the new Institute of Post-graduate Medicine and was designed and organized by the Board of Study in Community Medicine of this Institute. The Departments of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and Community Medicine of the Faculties of Medicine in the Campuses of Colombo and Peradeniya will be responsible jointly for teaching and evaluating the students enrolled for this course.

There is one Sri Lankan Research student registered in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, in the Colombo Campus of the University for a Ph.D. in Epidemiology.

D. Teaching activities

The commencement of the new course for the M.D. (Community Medicine), scheduled for January 1977, has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. It will begin as soon as the selected doctors are released by the Ministry of Health.

The Institute of Post-graduate Medicine of the University of Sri Lanka, which was established in 1974, is responsible for all Post-graduate Medical Education in Sri Lanka. Boards of Studies in the various specialities, including Community Medicine, are responsible for designing and organizing the relevant teaching programmes. Candidates, on successful completion of the courses of study, will be awarded the degrees of Doctorates of Medicine - M.D., by the University of Sri Lanka. These doctorates will be of similar status, whatever the speciality. The holders of these degrees will be recognized by the Government of Sri Lanka as fully qualified specialists.

The Board of Study in Community Medicine comprises University teachers, and specialists in Community Medicine representing the professional associations. The programme of study for the M.D. (Community Medicine) is of four years duration, at the end of which period, successful candidates will be awarded the degree of M.D. (Community Medicine). The two Faculties of Medicine in the Colombo and Peradeniya Campuses of the University will be responsible for carrying out the teaching programme. Candidates will be evaluated by a Board nominated by the Board of Studies in Community Medicine.

The course consists of

#### Part I

An academic component of one year comprising two semesters, the first semester being designed to teach basic knowledge, the second semester being more applied and practical. This component is designed to fulfil basic requirements for an average M.P.H. course.

The following course units are offered:

1. Demography and Population Dynamics
2. Statistics and Research Methods
3. Epidemiology - Pure and Applied
4. Medical Sociology
5. Health Education
6. Health Administration and Health Services
7. Family Health
8. Environmental Health
9. Occupational Health
10. Nutrition
11. Microbiology
12. Parasitology
13. The Zoonoses
14. Mental Health
15. Dental Health
16. Special Services

All teaching will be in the form of lectures, practical classes, discussions, demonstrations and projects.

#### Part II

An in-service supervised training in General Community Health for one year, in selected health areas.

#### Part III

A year abroad in selected institutions, depending on the candidates' special interests, and with a view to research in Part IV of the course.

#### Part IV

An in-service training of one year, in an approved speciality of the candidates' choice i.e. General community health, epidemiology, nutrition, etc. During this year the candidate will carry out a research project in his subject relevant to Sri Lanka and submit a dissertation which will be Part V.

#### Part V

Presentation of dissertation evaluated by a Board of Examiners nominated by the Board of Studies in Community Medicine. The successful completion of each part is a prerequisite to proceed to the next part.

E. Research activities

1. Health Survey of Community Health Project Area
2. Random field surveys as a sample method of evaluating Family Health activities
3. The use of paramedical personnel in primary health care in the home
4. Integration of community curative care with the preventive work of a Medical Officer of Health in Sri Lanka
5. Pilot project to integrate occupational health services into the general health services.

F. The Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo Campus, provides comprehensive health care to a community of approximately 50 000 persons. This is called the University Community Health Project, Kotte. The services include:

1. Family health including family planning and domiciliary midwifery and primary care services
2. School health
3. Nutrition services
4. Control of communicable diseases and immunizations
5. Environmental sanitation
6. Social work
7. Health education
8. Group occupational health services
9. Recognition and referral of patients suffering from the common mental illnesses.

G. 1.1 The objective of the post-graduate programme in Sri Lanka is to train selected candidates to the level of competence required to undertake health care responsibility at a consultant level. Candidates training in Community Medicine will be expected "to acquire the level of competence required for the identification and assessment of health needs, and the planning, organization, delivery and evaluation of health care services to a community". (Prospectus of the Institute of Post-graduate Medicine 1976. p. I).

H 1.2) Much of the research undertaken by this Department is to evaluate the  
2) present structure of the health services and its manpower. There is a  
3) good relationship and collaboration with the Ministry of Health in most of our work.

I Since there is a growing awareness of "overtraining" and under-utilization of the young medical graduate and the need for a re-distribution of health care services involving many categories of paramedical personnel, the concept of training programmes for all professional health personnel, undergraduate and post-graduate should be reviewed.