

School Health Service Program

The medical and public Health records show that in spite of remarkable advances in medical sciences the present state of health of our people is poor. Specially, that of the children.

Innumerable instances reveal the development of both organic and other communicable diseases outbreaks. Commonly, health is regarded as "Not being sick in bed". Departures from normal health are not even noticed or considered worth seeking medical advice.

General lack of basic health information / knowledge, results in outbreaks of disease, burden of preventable disorders, waste of economic resources and unmet goals of development.

To achieve results one needs to know the pitfalls. Children are the most vulnerable group and youth is the hope of the future. It is therefore important to have a base line data of this age group, in order to know their health problems and needs, and to plan interventions for securing the future of this generation and of the next generation too as healthy mothers will reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates. It is incredible to note that no health data for children (boys & girls) between the ages of 5-18 years is available for consultation. Hospital data does not reveal the exact picture.

To cover a large population of children of the target age group is a difficult task since the communities are not clearly demarcated.

To secure for youth the maximum opportunity of Health Appraisal it is advantageous to use schools where a large population can be covered in one establishment.

In schools a teacher may be attentive to the disturbed medical or psychological status of its pupil but does not have a legal responsibility for the correction or even improvement of health defects in any child. A teacher however has a professional obligation to do everything reasonable for children especially for those who deviate from the normal range of health, growth, development and behavior. The teacher may be required to:

- a) Facilitate in bringing out his/her observations about each child to the Physician.
- b) The school authorities will aid in obtaining the written parental consent for every child, basic data of the child and previous history of ailments.
- c) To carry out certain instruction from the physician.

Bridge the gap between the parents and the Physician.