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OBJECTIVES

- The concept of social contract.
- The concept of community service.
- The social, public and community responsibilities of the professional.
- The concept of volunteering.

Concepts:

- **The social contract** is the concept that human beings have made an agreement with their government, whereby the government and the people have distinct roles and responsibilities.
- In all cases of **community service**, work is performed by **volunteers who are not paid for their time.**
- **Volunteering** is generally considered an altruistic “selfless” activity, intended to improve human quality of life.

Physicians and the community

- Physicians are members of the community.
- Affect it and are affected by it.
- Responsibilities of physicians are not limited to those within the hospital and clinical care only, yet the responsibilities extend to:

Responsibility	Notes
Public health	The science and practice of preventing diseases and promoting health in populations and it depends largely on epidemiology. Their traditional objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ To control communicable diseases✓ Safety of water and food supply✓ Response to national disasters
Educational role	Educating the public about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Causes of illness✓ Preventive measures✓ Predisposing factors✓ Changes in lifestyle
Improving health access	How? By treating equals equally.
International aid	By improving or eliminating illnesses by basic medical care.
Fund raising	May not apply locally since health care services are provided by the governments. Funds may be raised to help those individuals who cannot afford to purchase medications or medical equipments.

Questions:

1-Examples of community service:

- ❖ Visiting and spending time with lonely elderly.
- ❖ Tutoring needy students in their studies for free.
- ❖ Helping out at organizations such as libraries.

2- What can you do as a physician for your community ?

- ❖ Prevention of illnesses
- ❖ Educational role
- ❖ Improving health care access