

Concept
of

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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OBJECTIVES

students should be able to understand
and describe;

- ❑ The concept of community service.
- ❑ The social, public and community responsibilities of a professional.
- ❑ The concept of volunteering.

Definition of Community

The word "community" is derived from the **old French *communité*** which is derived from the **Latin *communitas*** (*cum*, "with/together" + *munus*, "gift"), a broad term for fellowship or organized society.

(Oxford University Press)

Definition of community (cont.)



Community is a **group** of interacting people, living in some proximity (i.e., in space, time, or relationship).

Community usually refers to a social unit larger than a household that shares common values and has social cohesion.

Community Service

Community service is defined as *donated service or activity that is performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions.*

Community Service

Some people associate community service with ***punishment***, since it is often offered to small-time offenders as an alternative to fines or jail time.

However, community service can also be ***altruistic***, and it is a vital part of many small communities.

Community Service

Basically anything which benefits the society in any way can be considered as a community service project or activity.

Community service

In all cases, community service work is performed by **volunteers** who are **not paid** for their time.

Examples of Community Service

Community Service includes:

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

Why to carry out community service?

- ❖ Benefits the community
- ❖ The volunteers in the activities also gain a sense of accomplishment
- ❖ Better social communication skills
- ❖ Exposure to new peoples and cultures
- ❖ Overall improved mental health

*When you cease to make a contribution,
you begin to die.*

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

(October 11, 1884 – November 7, 1962)

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.

Physicians and the community

Usually the focus is on the physician - patient relation.

The broader sense of responsibility of physicians is towards their community

Physicians and the community

Physicians role in the community extends to:

- Public Health
- Prevention of illnesses
- Educational roles
- Improving health care access
- Setting policies
- Assurance of competence
- International Aid
- Fund raising

Broad understanding of Health

*Health depends not only on medical care
but also on other factors including:*

1. Individual behavior

2. Genetic makeup

3. Social and economic conditions

Individual health

Genetic

Social

Psychological

Environmental

A framework for improvement

Many entities in the community share the responsibility of maintaining and improving its health.

Who are health Stakeholders?

- Health care providers
- Public health agencies
- Community organizations
- Government agencies
- Schools
- Social services organizations

10 Essential services of stackholders

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems.
2. **Diagnosis and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.

10 Essential services of stakeholders

6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Public Health

- The science and practice of preventing diseases and promoting health in populations .
- It depends largely on epidemiology.
- Largely performed by governmental organizations.

Public Health

Traditional objective:

- ✓ To control communicable diseases
- ✓ Safety of water and food supply
- ✓ Response to national disasters

Educational role of public health

Educating the public about:

- Causes of illness
- Preventive measures
- Predisposing factors
- Changes in lifestyle

Improving health access

Improve the level and ease of access of individuals to health care services by reducing inequalities.

International Aid

In some areas of the world, health care is very limited and almost non-existent

-Most people suffer from diseases such as Malaria, Tuberculosis, Typhoid, and AIDS.

-Many of the illnesses can be improved or eliminated by basic medical care and other measures .

International community services

Done through:

- Organizations providing humanitarian needs
- Medical Organizations
- Governments

General Organizations

They provide:

- Clean water supplies
- Clothing
- Education

Medical Organizations

Medical teams provide:

1. Medical care
2. Medications
3. Immunizations
4. Medical supplies
5. Teach communities about nutrition and preventive measures
6. Training of local health care providers

Governments

Aid to other countries during time of need.

May include sending:

- ❖ Medical professionals
- ❖ Medical equipments
- ❖ Medications

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.

The concept of Volunteering

Volunteering is generally considered an *altruistic* activity, intended to improve human *quality of life*.

Why do people volunteer ?

- ❖ For their own skill development.
- ❖ To solve problems when needed
- ❖ To make contacts for possible employment.
- ❖ To help others and earn respect and favor.
- ❖ Get benefit of spare time.
- ❖ A variety of other reasons.

Types of volunteering

- **Skill –based volunteering**

e.g. special skills required.

- **Micro & virtual- volunteering :**

e.g. off-site tasks done by internet . Completed in certain time .May need application process or training, eg. telemonitoring ,teletutoring.

Types of volunteering (cont:)

- **Environmental volunteering**
e.g. Protecting animals, education about natural environment.
- **Emergency volunteering**
e.g. During natural disasters..
- **School volunteering:**
e.g. Additional teaching for students.

Types of volunteering (cont:)

- **Community volunteering:**
e.g. for orphanages, widows, mosques, blood donation, during Hajj and Ramadan,..etc.
- **International work –camps :**
e.g. Environmental conservation, rural developments.

Volunteering can be daily ,for hours ,weekly or when needed .

It can be done through: money, donations, work effort, or relations .

Volunteering in Islam

قال تعالى: (يا أيها الناس اركعوا واسجدوا واعبدوا ربكم وافعلوا الخير لعلكم تفلحون) (الحج).

(فاستبقوا الخيرات إلى الله مرجعكم جميعاً فينبئكم بما كنتم فيه تختلفون)
(المائدة)

قال الرسول عليه الصلاة والسلام: (مثل المؤمنین فی توادهم وتراحمهم وتعاطفهم كمثل الجسد الواحد إذا اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد

بالسهر والحمى)

Doctors are to be committed to

1. Integrity
2. Compassion
3. Altruism
4. Continuous improvement
5. Excellence ,as well as ;
6. *Working in partnership with members of the other health care teams.*

In summary

The broader concept of physician role should be adopted to go past the individual and include the community as well.

Take home message

You have been given this life but once
in it,
do all the good that you can do
to all the people you can do
for as long as you can do .

Ceccere

FOR YOUR READING

1. An Introduction to Community Health

James F. McKenzie

2. Community Health and Wellness:

Primary Health Care in Practice Anne McMurray and Jill Clendon

3. Volunteers: a social profile

Indiana University Press, 2008 - [Social Science](#)

[Marc A. Musick, John Wilson](#)

[Reviews](http://books.google.com.sa/books/about/Volunteers.html?id=u8Tabf5HcRcC) <http://books.google.com.sa/books/about/Volunteers.html?id=u8Tabf5HcRcC> Indiana University Press, 2008

