

PROFESSIONALISM

Lecture 8: Concept of COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Please note that this file contains summaries and important notes only, your original source for studying is the full lectures file made by team 434, which will be revised by team 435 after each lecture. Link: [Lectures file \(revised\)](#).

Summary:

❖ Definition of Community:

- 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:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Basically anything which benefits the society in any way can be considered as a community service project or activity.
- ✓ Performed by **volunteers** who are **not paid** for their time.
- ✓ 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.

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.

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.

❖ Physicians role in the community is not limited to those within the hospital and clinical care, but extends to:

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

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

- Individual behavior
- Psychological and environmental factors.
- Genetic makeup
- Social and economic conditions

❖ Health Stakeholders¹ are:

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

10 Essential services of stackholders:

Monitor heahth status	Diagnose and investigate health problems
Inform, educate, and empower people	Mobilize community partnerships
Develop policies and plans	Enforce laws and regulations
Link people to needed health services	Assure a competent workforce
Evaluate quality	Research

❖ Public health :

The science and practice of preventing diseases and promoting health in populations .

- It depends largely on epidemiology.
- Largely performed by governmental organizations.

Objectives of public health:

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

¹stakeholders are entities that have an interest in a given project, and may affect it or be affected by it...

Educational role of public health: Educating the public about:
Causes of illness, Preventive measures, Predisposing factors and Changes in lifestyle.

❖ **International community services. Done through:**

1- **General organizations:**

They provide: Clean water supplies, Clothing and Education.

2- **Medical organization :**

Medical teams provide: Medical care, Medications, Immunizations, Medical supplies, Teach communities about nutrition and preventive measures, Training of local health care providers.

3- **Governments:**

Provide aid to other countries during time of need. May include sending: Medical professionals, Medical equipments and Medications.

❖ **The concept of Volunteering :**

- Volunteering is generally considered an **altruistic** activity, intended to improve human **quality of life**.
- Volunteering can be daily, for hours, weekly or when needed.
- It can be done through: money, donations, work effort, or relations.

Why do people volunteer?

- For their own skill development.
- To solve problems when needed
- Get benefit of spare time.
- To make contacts for possible employment.
- To help others and earn respect and favor.
- 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
- **Environmental** volunteering. e.g. Protecting animals...
- **Emergency** volunteering. e.g. During natural disasters...
- **School** volunteering. e.g. Additional teaching for students.
- **Community** volunteering. e.g. for orphanages, mosques, etc...
- **International work/camps**. e.g. Environmental conservation, rural developments.

❖ **Doctors are to be committed to:**

- **Working in partnership with members of the other health care teams.**
- Integrity.
- Compassion.
- Altruism.
- Excellence.
- Continuous improvement.