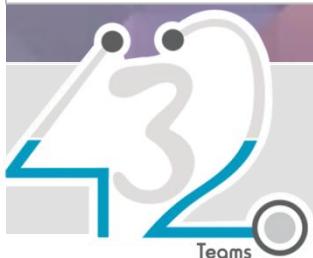


1 Introduction to Community Medicine

Objectives

By the end of this lecture students will be able to:

1. Be fully oriented with COMM-311 course objectives and contents
2. Understand the definitions and concepts of Community, preventive medicine and public health.
3. Know the core functions & services of public health.



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What is Community Medicine?

The **study of health and disease** in the population of defined communities in order to **identify their health needs**, and **to plan, implement and evaluate** health **programs** to effectively **meet these needs**.

OR

Specialty which **deals with populations** and comprises those doctors who try to **measure the needs of the population**, both **sick and well**, who **plan and administer services** to meet those needs, **and those who are engaged in research and teaching** in the field (Faculty of Community Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians)

Community Medicine is often considered synonymous with:

1)**preventive and social medicine**, 2)**public health, and community health**. All these share common ground, i.e. **prevention of disease and promotion of health**.

Community medicine provides **comprehensive health services** ranging from **preventive, promotive, curative, to rehabilitative** services.

Preventive Medicine:

- It is a **specialized field of medical practice**.
- It is concerned with **application of preventive measures** within **all areas of clinical medicine**.

Public Health:

Organized efforts of society to:

- Protect
 - Promote
 - Restore
- } **People's Health**

It is the combination of

1)**science**

2)**skills**

3)**beliefs**

The **mission** of Public Health is to **fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy**

Definitions of Public Health

- 1)
 - The **art and science** of **maintaining, protecting** and **improving** the health of the people through **organized community efforts**.
 - Public health is both a body of **knowledge** and also means to **apply** that knowledge.
- 2)
 - Public health is a combination of **scientific disciplines** (e.g., **epidemiology, biostatistics, laboratory science, social science, demography**) and **skills and strategies** (e.g., **epidemiological investigations, planning and management, intervention, evaluation**) that are directed to the **maintenance and improvement of the health of people**.

Specialties

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Demography
- Health education and health promotion
- Communicable disease epidemiology
- Non communicable disease epidemiology
- School health
- Mental health
- Community nutrition
- Environmental health
- Occupational health
- Geriatric Health
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH)
- Health programs and policies.
- Health systems and services.
- Health of people with special needs
- Adolescents' health
- International health
- Reproductive health

Three core public health functions:

Important

1. **Assessment** The **assessment and monitoring** of the **health** of communities and populations at **risk** to **identify health problems and priorities**;
2. **Policy development** The formulation of public policies designed to **solve** identified local and national health problems and priorities
3. **Assurance** To assure that all populations have **access to appropriate and cost-effective care**, including health **promotion** and disease **prevention** services, and **evaluation** of the **effectiveness** of that care.

Who is responsible for conducting Public Health services?

Ministry of Health

+

Other governmental agencies

+

community participation

*Community medicine team
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*If you find any Mistakes please
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