



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF MADURAI CORPORATION - A STUDY

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Introduction

In India the public health is given importance since independence. Separate ministry was established in 1950. At present, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare caters the needs of public with regard to health. The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare is acted as the nodal agency for co-ordinating various training programmes including national level medical campaigns. It has developed a separate module for each and every health care activity to cater the Public Health. The medical officers of Madurai Corporation also trained through these modules. The modules also help the medical officers to supervise different categories of health workers. These modules also serve as training resource material as well as ready reference for medical officers of Public Health Service and rural and urban medical officer

Public Health

The term "Public Health" came into general use around 1840AD. It arose from the need to protect "The Public" from the spread of communicable diseases. Later, it appeared in 1848 AD in the name of a law in England, the Public Health Act was passed in England to crystallize the efforts organized by society to protect, promote and restore the people's health. In other words, Public health is community health. The approach to a medicine which is concerned with the health of the community as a whole is Public Health. It has been said that: "Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time." Whereas in developing countries, public health has not made much headway in terms of sanitary reforms and control of communicable disease, it has made tremendous strides in the industrialized western countries resulting in

longer expectation of life and significant decline in death rates

Health Department of Madurai Corporation

Madurai Corporation consists of seven departments such as Town planning, Education, Engineering, Revenue, Accounts, Public relations and Public Health. Among all departments, the Public Health department plays a vital role in creating hygiene and safe environment and improving Public Health. It has well trained medical officer as chief and assistant Chief of the Department. The public health department of Madurai Corporation is a well established and also known for its public services. It established the first maternity home in 1873. Actually it was established as a hospital under the Madurai municipality at Thirumalai Nayak Palace. During the British period this hospital provided better health care to the public. From 1928, Onwards Madurai Municipality actively participated in Freedom movement as well as in social activities. Besides its services, it has its own renowned popularity among the public. It caters Health Service activities such as pre-natal care for married women, health care guidance and treatment to general public.

The public health department of Madurai Corporation is responsible for all Medical services as well as health related works and campaigns and earned the renowned popularity. It plays a vital role in creating hygienic and safe environment and improving public health. Health care Guidance and treatment, immunization, awareness campaign and preventive programmes also provided to the public periodically.

FUNCTIONS**Out Patient treatment**

17 dispensary, 17 urban Health posts and 16 maternity Home or Centre are functioning. Every year about 4,50,000 patients 4,03,00 patients, 3,331,000 patients be treated in the Dispensaries, urban health posts and maternity Homes respectively. The floating of out patients in these homes are going on rising every year

Natal Care Services in Maternity Homes

Every year about 4950 cases admitted for delivery conduction in the corporation Maternity Homes an average 380 deliveries have been conducted every month. Madurai medical team from the corporation is rendering valuable services in this regard. The maternity homes of Madurai corporation are also having scanning facility. Ultra Sound Scan facilities have established in three Maternity Home namely "Muthu Saratha Centre, Sellur Maternity Home and EOC. Every year about 15300 Ante Natal mothers were examined and monthly 1270 cases are being examined through these Corporation Centres.

Family Welfare Programme

The growing population of India is a great challenge to the economic as well as social growth. Hence the Government of India took many initiatives to control the population. Birth control at rural level is to be achieved through the local administrative bodies like corporation.

In Madurai Corporation Family welfare operation is carried out in two maternity homes. The medical officers are given targets on family planning. If they could not finish their target, they even go to the society to achieve the target. For this type of work the medical officers along with their nursing assistants go to the streets and do the needful to the public. Corporation maternity homes, namely RayaluIyer maternity Home and Pudur Every year about 800 sterilization operations are being done in the Corporation Centres.

Immunization Performance

There are plenty of immunization programmes announced by the central government. Among them, Under the mother and child care programme every year 25,000. Ante Natal mothers and 22,500 under one-year

children are immunized. In Madurai Corporation. 22800 children are immunized by D.T and T.T. Every medical officer is instructed to carry out their target in this regard. The medical officers along with the staff nurses and sanitary workers take minute care on immunization table which is provided to the patients. If the patient is not coming to the hospital the staff nurses go to the house² Pulse Polio immunization is very important at the national level. The corporation achieved nearly 95%-100% every year in their target.

Awareness Programmes

The corporation medical team organized mass campaigns to provide community medicine. Sanitation works are also done by them. The health workers are given targeted package of services. The expenses on these campaigns are sponsored by the health department. Hence the corporation is not only providing the good quality medical care but also educating the community towards the better public health care. Smallpox (variola), Cholera, Dengue, Chinkunguniya, malariya and Chicken pox awareness campaign and eradication schemes were implemented by the officials. During the small pox post – eradication era the diagnosis of chicken pox is of great importance because of its resemblance to mild small pox. Laboratory diagnosis is rarely required as clinical signs are usually clear-out. The most rapid and sensitive means of diagnosis is examination of vesicle fluid under the electronic microscope, which shows round particles and may be used for cultivation of the virus. Madurai Corporation officials took many measures to control the spread of small pox. For that it implemented many sanitation measures.

The intensity campaigns on dengue are conducted along with sanitary workers and instructed the public about the hygiene and sanitation facilities. Every morning corporation sanitary workers visited every house of a particular locality and created awareness on dengue. Constant and continuous campaign are organized by Medical team of Madurai Corporation to identify the community diseases in their location. In order to reduce to mortality rate they have gone through the streets of all the

wards and submitted to the report to commissioner in evening

Intergraded counseling and Testing Centers

There are five ICTC centers functioning in Corporation. These centres guide the patients and counsel them in a proper way. AIDS and other related counseling are done here. It addresses reproductive and child health problems such as prevention and management of complication of abortion, Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI), Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Adolescent health. It is an integrated and intersectoral programme with a Bottom-up approach. The focus is essentially on the family and the community and the emphasis is on the quality of service.

Facilitative supervision and Management

Health workers function best in a work supportive environment with facilitative management and supervision that motivate staff and enable them to perform their tasks well and needs of external clients.

Information, Training and development

For a facility to provide quality health services, staff must process and continuously acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to provide the best reproductive and overall services possible.

Primary Health Care

The concept of primary health care came into line – light in 1978 following an international conference in Alma-Ata, USSR. Essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their active participation and at a cost that the community and the country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-determination. The primary health care approach is based in principles of social equity, nation-wide coverage, self-reliance, intersect oral coordination, and people's involvement in the planning and implementation of health programmed in pursuit of common health goals.

Community Medicine

The term “Community Medicine” is a newcomer. It is the successor of what has been previously known as public health, preventive

medicine, social medicine. Community medicine is a recent introduction, and it has borrowed heavily from the concepts, approaches and methods of public health, preventive medicine and social medicine. Now the Government of India introduced the community medicine through its local body medical needs.

Importance of Community Need Assessment

Through the community need assessment approach, Medical officer can provide services to the community based on their actual needs, as these will be assessed systematically. Therefore, the services would help Medical officer in setting priorities, identifying target as well as high risk groups, leading to realistic estimation of services and matching of resources needed for the same, developing realistic action plan and work plan for the functionaries and service providers that would be relevant to local situations. Medical officer can use this approach for distribution of family planning contraceptives such as oral pills and condoms, provide sexually and gender education and counseling and create awareness concerning family planning and child care, Importance of breast feeding and nutrition etc.,

In community health, epidemiological skills are needed to examine the whole population and select the most suitable diagnostic indicators that describe and explain health problems. The medical officer has in fact, been making a community diagnosis in order to decide which strategy would be more effective in raising the health status of the population.

District level surveys are undertaken through non-Governmental agencies appointed by the government on an annual basis. Issues relating to pregnancy of women, Family planning issues, Unmet needs, Maternal Mortality and issues relating to it, Knowledge of Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome, Human Immunodeficiency Virus are surveyed through the medical officers.

Counselling

Counseling is a process of enabling the client and patient to express her or his feeling and create a physical and psychological environment in which the client feels confident enough to take his own decisions.

The work of a counsellor may appear easy and easy to master. In reality it is a job which requires an extra effort of such as, Managing, Concentrating, Energy and Patience. The medical officer possesses such knowledge and the professional knowledge of medicine according to the socio-cultural milieu of the Block and the District.

Conclusion

The Public health is so important for the improvement of a community. The Community medicine, diagnosis of communicable diseases and sanitation facilities are provided to the public by the health department of Madurai Corporation. The medical officers belong to the hospital usually treat individual patients one-on-one for a specific disease or injury. Public health professionals monitor and diagnose the health concerns of entire communities and promote healthy practices and behaviors to assure our populations stay healthy

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