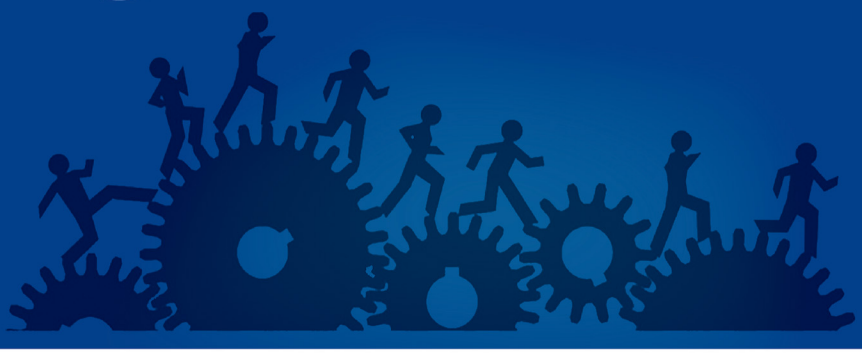
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Essentials in Community Health Nursing Practice

4th Edition



S Kamalam

Foreword
M Danabalan

JAYPEE

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Chapter 2

Historical Perspective of Community Health Nursing in India

Chapter Outline

- Definitions of Public Health
- Community Health
- Public Health Nursing
- Definitions of Community Health Nursing
- Health Departments and Community Health Nursing: Before Independence, After Independence—1947

INTRODUCTION

The birth of public health concept in England around **1840**, Earlier**,** and **Johann Peter Frank (1745–1821)** a health philosopher of his time, conceived public health as good health laws enforced by the police and enunciated the principle that the state is responsible for the health of its people. The Public Health Act of **1848** was a fulfilment of his dream about the states' responsibility for the health of its people. A comprehensive piece of legislation was brought into force in England, the Public Health Act of **1875** for the control of man's physical environment. The first Medical Officer of Health of London built up a system of public health in England which became the admiration of the rest of the world. The early phase of public health (**1880–1920)** is often called the **"Disease Control Phase."**

By the beginning of the 20th century, the broad foundations of public health—clean water, clean surroundings, wholesome conditions of houses, control of offensive trades, etc., were laid in all the countries of the western world.

While Public Health made rapid strides in the western world, its progress has been slow in the developing countries such as India where the main health problems continue to be those faced by the west 100 years ago.

The developing countries of the world are those that are poor and lagging behind in many things, such as their level of education and the health services they can provide for their population.

The people of developing countries rely to a large extent on agriculture for both their food and their income and as much as **80 percent** of the population live in the rural areas in the Third World Countries. There are usually few big cities but these are developing very quickly, often doubling their size every 5 years and so even though the urban population might be a small proportion of the total population it increasingly has to face very great problems with slums, poor housing and overcrowding.

Developing countries had high death and birth rates and their population is often affected with great number of diseases.

Another problem of the developing countries is the lack of trained staff and not enough money to pay as many workers as are needed. In the year **1918** that preparation of nursing workers for public health was undertaken in our country, many schools were established in various parts of the country to train lady health visitors.

DEFINITIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The term public health was defined by **"John Winslow (1851)** as the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health and efficiency through organized community measures such as control of infection, sanitation, health education, health services and legislation, etc."

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Public Health developed in England around the middle of the 19th century. In **1920**, **CEA Winslow**, a former Professor of Public Health at **Yale University**, gave the off-quoted definition of public health. The WHO expert committee on public health administration, adapting **Winslow's** earlier definition, has defined it as:

"The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health and efficiency through organized community efforts for the sanitation of the environment, the control of communicable infections, the education of the individuals in personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing services for early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease and the development of social machinery to ensure for every individual a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health so organizing these benefits as to enable every citizen to realize his birthright of health and longevity."

Public Health in its present form is a combination of scientific disciplines and skills and strategies that are directed to the maintenance and improvement of the health of the people.

Although the term **"Public Health"** has lost its original meaning the term is still widely used.

Community Health

The term *"Community Health" has replaced in some countries. The term public health is not only a discipline but has become a "Social Institution."*

The term *"Community Health" has gained wide acceptance. The WHO Expert Committee on Community Health nursing (1974) defined:*

"Community health refers to the health status of the members of the community, to the problems affecting their health, and to the totality of health care provided to the community."

Community health implies, in a broad sense, integration of curative, preventive and promotive health services. The traditional and important responsibilities of public health are now included in the concept of community health.

Public Health Nursing

A WHO Expert Committee defined public health nursing as:

"Public health nursing combines the skills of nursing, public health and some phases of social assistance and functions as part of the total public health programme for the promotion of health, the improvement of conditions in the social and physical environment, the prevention of illness, disability and rehabilitation."

"It is concerned for the most part with the care of well-families and with nonhospitalized sick persons and their families, with groups of people and with health problems that affect the community as a whole."

A European Conference on Nursing Administration (1959) defined a public health nurse as follows:

"The nurse most directly concerned with giving health education and care to individuals and families in the community."

DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING

Community health nursing has been defined by the division of Community Health Nursing Practice of American Nurses' Association as "*a field of nursing practice for which there exists a body of knowledge and related skills which is applied in meeting the health needs of communities, families and individuals in their normal environment such as at home, at school and at place of work."*

The **American Nurses Association (ANA 1980**) defined community health nursing as follows:

"Community health nursing is a synthesis of nursing and public health practice applied for promoting and preserving the health of people."

Community nursing, home visiting, health visiting, public health nursing—these all terms applied to much the same activities.

They all include a combination of the skills of nursing, of public health and preventive medicine and of social work. The community nurse is concerned with the care of well families, with sick people who are not in hospital or who have left hospital too soon, with the health of groups of people.

Community health nursing includes, home visiting, curative work for the sick, health

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education, control of communicable diseases MCH and Family Welfare maintenance of records and reports, collection of health statistics and environmental sanitation.

Chronological Development of Community Health Nursing in India

The preparation of nursing workers for public health work was started in this country in **1918,** when the Lady Reading Health School was established in Delhi. Later such schools were established in other parts of the country to train lady health visitors.

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING

Before Independence

In **1920**s, community health nursing recognized the relationship between health and economic security and began to assume responsibility for community health. All states and most of large cities had health departments with the majority of the staff being community health nurses. During the period, community health nursing assumed a leadership role in establishing standards for nursing practice. During the early decades of the 20th century, the scope of community health nursing included disease prevention, health promotion and family-oriented services.

- ***1908:*** Thepediatric department of the New York outdoor medical clinic began the first organized prenatal programme.
- ***1909:*** Visiting nurses service for pregnant women began in **Boston** in **1909** and **St Lewis** in **1912.**
- ***1919:*** The public health responsibilities were transferred to an elected minister.
- ***1920:*** Municipality and Local Boards Act were passed in several provinces.
- ***1920:*** **The Maternity and Infancy Act** (**Sheppard-Towner**) in **1920** was heralded landmark legislation and was the first measure to appropriate federal funds for a health and social welfare programme (**Rosen, 1958**). A successful programme ensured for 7 years until funding was discontinued.
- ***1921:*** Providing legislation for the advancement of public health.
- ***1924:*** A subsidized rural practitioner scheme was introduced in Madras and ₹50 per month was paid to doctors who would settle down in a village and treat patients free of charge for three hours a day.
- ***1930:*** The educational institution provides programmes for Public Health Nursing by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.
- ***1930:*** At Kolkata, an All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health was established with aid from the Rockefeller Foundation.
- ***1931:*** A Maternal and Child Welfare Bureau was established by the Indian Red Cross Society.
- ***1935:*** Title of the Social Security Act re-enacted the children's bureau.
- ***1935:*** All the health activities in the country were grouped us under the control of central and state government.
- ***1937:*** A Central Advisory Board of Health was set up.
- ***1939:*** Madras Public Health Act was passed. A Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) at Singur near Kolkata was established with assistance from the Rockfeller Foundation. Indian Tuberculosis Association was started.
- ***1940:*** The Drugs Act was passed and brought under control.
- ***1943:*** A Health Survey and Development Committee was appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore.
- ***1946:*** Bhore Committee's Report was submitted in three volumes.

After Independence—1947

- ***1947:*** The National Government took up the responsibility of improving the health of the people.
  - Ministries of health were established at the central and state levels.
  - Public health was integrated into the post of Director of Health Services.
- ***1948:*** India joined as a member state of WHO. ESI Act was passed.
  - Report of the Environment Hygiene Committee was published.

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- ***1950:*** Planning Commission was set up by the Government of India.
- ***1951:*** BCG Vaccination Programme was launched.
  - This year was the beginning of First Five Year Plan.
- ***1952:*** Community Development Programme was launched on 2nd October for overall development of the rural areas.
  - Central Council of Health constituted.
- ***1953:*** A model Public Health Act Committee was appointed to draw up a model comprehensive Public Health Act.
- ***1954:*** Central Social Welfare Board was set up.
  - National water supply and sanitation scheme was inaugurated.
  - National Leprosy Control Programme was started.
  - Food Adulteration Act was passed.
- ***1955:*** National Filaria Control Programme was started.
  - Central Leprosy Training and Research Centre was established at Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu
  - National Tuberculosis survey commenced.
- ***1956:*** Central Health Education Bureau was established.
  - Chemotherapy centre at Madras was started.
- ***1958:*** National Malaria Control Programme was changed to Eradication Programme.
- ***1959:*** Mudaliar Committee was appointed to review the progress made in health.
- ***1960:*** School Health Committee was formed. Pilot projects in relation to Smallpox Eradication Programme were initiated.
- ***1961:*** Mudaliar Committee's Report published.
- ***1962:*** Central Family Planning Institute was established in Delhi.
- ***1963:*** Applied Nutrition Programme started.
  - NICD (National Institute for Communicable Disease) was established in Delhi.
- ***1963:*** The Family Planning Programme was changed to an extension approach scheme rather than one with a clinic approach.
- ***1964:*** National Institute for Health Administration and Education (NIHAE) was established in Delhi.
- ***1965:*** IUCD (Lippes Loop) was introduced.
  - Direct BCG vaccination programme introduced without tuberculin test.
- ***1966:*** Minister for Family Planning was appointed under the Ministry of Health.
  - International Postpartum Family Planning Programme in India.
- ***1970:*** All India Hospital Family Planning Programme was started.
- ***1971:*** MTP Act was passed by parliament.
- ***1972:*** MTP Act came into force.
- ***1973:*** Minimum needs programme was incorporated with the health services.
- ***1973:*** Multipurpose Health Workers Scheme was introduced by "Kartar Singh" Committee report.
- ***1975:*** On July 5th of this year, India was declared free from smallpox.
  - Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) was launched in India.
- ***1976:*** Indian Factories Act of 1948 was amended.
  - National Programme for prevention of blindness was formulated.
- ***1977:*** International Commission declared that India has eradicated smallpox. National Institute of Health and Family Planning was formed.
  - Community Health workers' scheme was begun by the Union Ministry of Health.
  - Rural Health Scheme was introduced.
- ***1978:*** The "Slogan Health for all by 2000 AD" came into force at Alma Ata Declaration in USSR underlined the primary health care approach.
- ***1979:*** World Health Assembly endorsed the Declaration of Alma Ata on primary health care.
- ***1980:*** On 8 May, smallpox was officially declared as eradicated from the entire world.
  - The American Nurses Association has been defined Community Health Nursing in 1980.

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- ***1981:*** Report of the working group on "Health for All" set up by the Planning Commission was published.
  - Air Pollution Act was enacted.
- ***1982:*** The new 20-point programme was announced.
  - The Government of India framed "National Health Policy".
  - The School Health Service started in India on a trial basis.
- ***1983:*** National Health Programme (NHP) was approved by the Parliament.
  - Guinea Worm Eradication Programme was launched.
- ***1984:*** The ESI (Amendment) Bill was approved by Parliament.
- ***1985:*** Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) was launched on 19th November Indira Gandhi's Birthday.
- ***1986:*** Environment Act promulgated.
  - 20-point plan was restructured.
- ***1987:*** The new 20-point programme was launched.
- ***1987:*** A worldwide "Safe Motherhood" campaign was launched by World Bank.
- ***1989:*** Blood Safety Programme was launched.
- ***1990:*** ARI Programme initiated as a pilot project in 14 districts.
- ***1991:*** India stages the last decadal census.
- ***1992:*** Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme was launched on 20th August.
  - Anaemia Control Programme was enunciated.
- ***1994:*** Return of plague after 28 years of silence.
- ***1995:*** Pulse Polio Immunization Programme launched in December and January.
- ***1996:*** Reproductive Child Health Programme was started in place of CSSM with slight modification.
- ***1997:*** Leprosy Control Programme was integrated with health services. RCH programme was launched/9th five year plan launched.
- ***1998:*** National Anti-Malaria Programme introduced instead of National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP).
- ***1998-1999:*** NFHS-II undertaken phase II of National AIDS Control Programme.
- ***2000:*** National Population Policy.
- ***2001:*** First Census of the Country.
- ***2002:*** NH Policy
  - National AIDS Control Policy
  - 10th Five year plan
  - Emergence of SARS
- ***2003:*** Prohibition of Tobacco Umbrella Programme for prevention of vector-borne disease, e.g., malaria, filaria, kala-azar, dengue, JE.
- ***2004:*** Low-osmolarity Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)
- ***2005:*** RCH-II
  - Janani Suraksha Yojana
  - National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
  - India Achieved Leprosy Elimination.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT 8 GOALS (MDG) 2000–2012

- ***2006:*** Released new growth chart by WHO ban on child labour RNTCP covers whole country since Nov.
- ***2007:*** Revision of national population
- ***2008–2009:*** Swine flu awareness Programme and Control Programme
- ***2010:*** Modified School Health Programme
- ***2014:*** Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 0–14 years
- ***2015:*** Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) 10–19 years
- ***2015:*** Sustainable development 17 goals (SDG).

India has a unique history of community health nursing and it has changed a lot throughout history.

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Essentials in Community Health Nursing Practice

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- Format of the book has been improved to make it more user-friendly
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- Text is supported with suitable examples, charts and diagrams
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- Health education points/topics for the problems that commonly occur in the community have been included
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases, new MCH programmes
- Environmental health, nutrition and disorders, all the assessment formats for the special groups, frequently asked university questions for UG and PG students
- Formats such as antenatal assessment, postnatal, infant, under five, and newborn, practical examination format, family care study have been included which are very much useful for the nursing students.

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