PRACTICAL 1 COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

Structure

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1.0 OBJECTIVES

After completing this Practical, you should be able to:

- list purpose of community identification;
- collect information about community from various sources;
- find the number of people families and house holds that make the community;
- use the information for community action; and
- write a community identification report.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In Practical Manual of Course 3 (BNSL-003) you have learnt about assessment and care of community and family. You will be able to provide effective care only if you know the Community. As a health care worker you have to practice in variety of geographical locations. Each community whether urban, suburban or rural has its unique characteristics, strengths and limitations. It is important for you to know the community and identify the main problems and concerns of the community. You must have accurate knowledge of the factors that have impact on the health problems.

This Practical will help you to identify a community and develop a community profile. You will learn a systematic way of gathering data about the community. You will also be able to identify biological, physical and socio-economic and cultural factors that have bearing on the health status of the particular community. Once you collect this information and record it, you would be able to function meaningfully towards improvement of community health through community action.

1.2 PURPOSES AND INDICATIONS OF COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

The main purposes and indications of community identification are given below:

Purposes

- Know the community.
- Identify the leaders of community .
- Systematically gather health related data about a selected community.
- Explore boundaries and landmarks of community, such as groups of houses, main buildings, rivers, wells, ponds and drainage etc.

- Identify health and health related resources in the community.
- Record the health conditions that are threats to a specific population in the community.

Indications

- Become acquainted with a given community for the purpose of assessment.
- Collect information for action.
- Assess the needs of community.

1.3 POINTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND

You should keep following points in mind while identifying community:

- Take official permission for visit if required.
- Clarify the purpose of your visit.
- Gather informal information from community.
- Draw the map of community with the help of school teachers and others.

1.4 EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

Since study of community is carried out by different approaches, the tools used to collect required information are:

- Key information register
- Map of geographical area
- Community leaders' views
- Interview schedule
- Questionnaire
- Observation checklist
- Measuring tools such as weighing scale, thermometer, blood slides and needles, haemoglobin scale etc.

1.5 GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION

For community identification, you as a Health worker should know the geographical boundaries and be able to draw the map of the community showing where people live and collect the required information given below:

Geographical Characteristics

- Name of the community/village/area
- Boundaries
- Important landmarks e g., School, Temple, Important buildings
- Roads, Street
- Total Area
- Month of Survey
- Map of the Area.

Demographic Characteristics

- Total population
- Total families

- Nature of the families (joint/single)
- Size of the families (No. of members)

Population Distribution

According to Age

0-1 Yr

1-5 Yrs

6-10 Yrs

11-15 Yrs

16-20 Yrs

21-25 Yrs

26-30 Yrs

31-35 Yrs

36-40 Yrs

41-45 Yrs

46-50 Yrs

51-55 Yrs

>55 Yrs.

According to Sex

Male

Female

According to Education

- Illiterate
- Can read and write
- Primary School
- Secondary School
- Higher Secondary
- Graduate
- Post Graduate

According to Occupation

- Casual Labourers
- Farming
- Skilled Labourers
- Unskilled Labourers
- Govt. Servants

According to Socio-economic Status

Income

<1000/-/month

1001/- – 5000/-/month

5001/- – 10,000/-/month

10,000/-/month

Caste

- Brahman
- Kshatriya (High caste-low caste)
- Vaishya
- Shudra

Religion

- Hindu
- Christian
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Others

Language

- Common language spoken by community.
- Hindi
- Punjabi
- Tamil

Vital Health Events

No. of births last 1 year

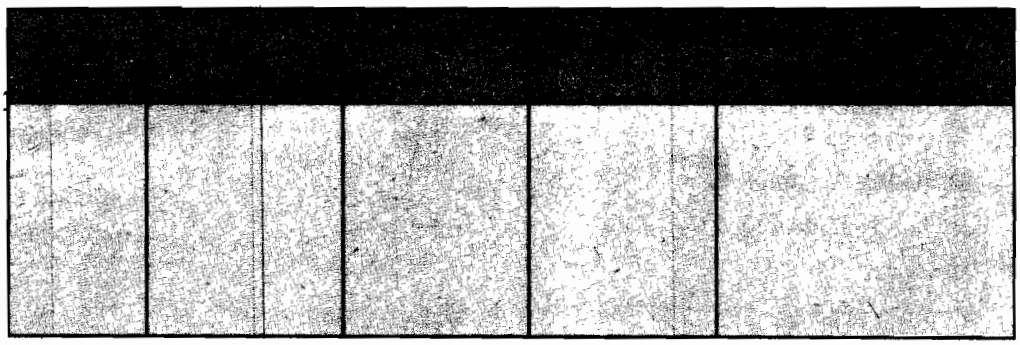
No. of deaths last 1 year

No. of abortions last 1 year

No. of marriages last 1 year

No. of pregnancies last 1 year

Causes of Death



Health Care Providers

- Self care
- Govt. Institution – Hospitals
  – Health Centre
- Private Institution/Practitioner

Special Risk Groups

- Infants
- Toddlers
- Antenatal Cases
- Lactating mothers
- Multigravida mothers
- Geriatric group
- Handicapped

House

- Total No.
- Type of house – Kutcha
  – Pucca
- No. of rooms
- Living space/head
- Rented/Owned
- Other facilities
  Water supply – Hand pump/Tap/Well/Safe/Unsafe
- Latrine – Open/Dug/Septic tank

Bathing Facilities

- Available
- Not available

Kitchen

- Open/closed
- Type
- Fuel used— wood, gas, kerosene.

Electricity

- Available
- Non-available

Waste Disposal and Waste Water Disposal

- Collection of domestic waste
- Disposal of domestic waste
- Vector menace
- Vector control measure
- Disposal of human faeces.

Domestic Animals

- Shed for animals
- Domestic pets

General Environmental/Sanitary Condition

- Unsafe for health
- Safe for health
- Presence of trees/shrubs

Educational Opportunities

- Schools
- Private institution
- Colleges
- Vocational institution

Voluntary Welfare Organization

- Women's welfare
- Mahila Mandals
- Youth welfare organization
- Youth clubs
- Vikas mandals
- Occupational organization

Trade Union Organization

- Labour organization
- Business organization

Statutory Bodies

- Panchayat
- Executive Committee

Leadership

Informal

- Landlords
- Traditional healers
- Senior citizens
- Influential person

Formal

- Panchyat members
- School Teachers Associations
- Private Practitioners
- Village Health Guides

Group dynamics as per:

- Religion
- Caste
- Culture
- age
- education
- occupation

Channels of Communication

Interpersonal Communication	– Retired people
	– Senior citizen
	– Barber
	– Teachers
Mechanisms	– Fairs and festivals
	– Official meeting (meeting places—Community centre)
	– Religious meeting (Worship hall)
Print and Electronics Media	– Radio
	– TV
	– Cinema
	– Newspapers, Posters, Pamphlets, Magazine etc.

Traditional folk media
- Cultural groups
- Songs, Dance
- Drama
- Puppet show.

Resources

a) Economic resources of community
- average income
- per capita income
- major occupation

b) Institutional resources
- educational agencies
- social welfare agencies
- health and health allied agencies
- industrial and commercial agencies.

c) Human resources
- Doctors
- Health workers
- Teachers
- Lawyers
- Voluntary health workers, Dais, Mahila Swasthya Sangh

d) Natural resources
- Land
- Water
- Soil
- Oil

1.6 PREPARING A REPORT OF COMMUNITY PROFILE

After you collect the information you should prepare a report of Community profile. It should include all facts and figures of information collected. Report should be such that all health team members and related team members can use it. A brief report is helpful in orientation of new staff and plan for future services.

1.7 LET US SUM UP

In this practical you have learnt the steps taken to indentify the community in order to know the boundaries and landmarks of community. This information will help you in rendering community health services. You have also learnt how to write the repot.

1.8 ACTIVITY

Collect data to identify the community and prepare a community profile report.