

OP 7: HEALTHY VILLAGE: A COST EFFECTIVE INNOVATION

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Introduction: A healthy population is an important precondition for economic growth and competitiveness of the country. It could be affected by biological, psychological, chemical, physical, social, cultural and economic factors. Addressing these broad determinants of health that lie outside the hands of the health sector is the joint responsibility of all social actors. Healthy village is an extended version of healthy city concept of WHO. A healthy city is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and developing to their maximum potential.

Objective: To mobilize communities and stakeholders to participate in activities in-order to facilitate the cooperation between health and other sectors at local level.

Methods: This is a case study of a new initiative to improve the health of the people and also teach the basic concept of Community and Family Medicine or primary care for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Approach of networking is used to develop inter-sectoral cooperation among the stakeholders. Name of the Department was changed as Department of Community and Family Medicine. A lecturer was recruited for Family Medicine. Nallur MOH area was made as a teaching area. A family medicine centre is opened at DH Kondavil. Local level communities are formed. Electronic data base is created for all the inhabitants in the area. Different forums developed with health service providers. Steps have been taken to develop a model poly clinic and integrated community activity.

Discussion: We are trying to implement the WHO concept at divisional level. Several villages are included. Success will depend on the effort and co-operation that we get. It is also important to maintain the activities at high level with stakeholder dynamics. This is an initiation of our Faculty as a model to show the effective usage of resources to achieve the health of the people. The project is at the initial phase. There is a hope that we will make it successful with the support of all.