

PGD in WASH
Assignment One
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1. Suppose you work with a community radio station, describe what your radio station would do to address water, sanitation and hygiene issues with regard to your i) audience, and ii) WASH messages.

i) your audience

- Consult with the community to find out what issues they would like addressed;
- Consult public health data to find out where improvements would benefit the population;
- Engage local people to think-tank ideas for radio messages and use locals as actors in the messages.

ii) WASH messages

- Explain the purpose of WASH;
- Invite community to participate on a local level;
- Provide WASH messages relevant to the local issues and needs of the community;
- Use local humour/dialogue/culturally appropriate language;
- After a trial period survey effectiveness of messages and re-engage community.

2. In your own words, what is your understanding of public health and what are its key elements?

Public health is the population-level promotion of health and prevention of illness. Some key elements include the following:

- Addressing the social, biological, and behavioural determinants of health;
- Promotion of health throughout the lifespan including education;
- Collecting, analysing, and acting upon population health data;
- Developing programs to address identified health priorities;
- Building local and national capacities to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and climate change;
- Poverty reduction and alleviation of human suffering.

Some of the many major sub-sectors of public health include: Health promotion, occupational health and safety, environmental health; water, sanitation and hygiene; immunisation programs; infectious disease prevention; chronic disease prevention; sexual health, and nutrition.

3. Public Health is about partnership between different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of i) recruitment, ii) training, iii) funding, and iv) monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries.

i) recruitment

- I/NGOs should look to recruit locally qualified individuals wherever possible and engage staff in upskilling for long term development;

- Employment targets should include gender quotas wherever possible and include members of different minorities, ethnic and religious groups where appropriate;

ii) training

- All staff should be trained in the basic principles of human rights and humanitarian standards, including ethics.

iii) funding

- Ensure qualified personnel responsible for funding including their ability to report openly and transparently on a regular basis;
- Strong policies relating to anti-corruption, no political donations.

iv) monitoring and evaluation

- I/NGOs have a responsibility to the target population, donors, and stakeholders to engage in honest monitoring and evaluation to ensure targets are met and failures addressed.

4. In your capacity as the environmental health officer you have been tasked to lead the assessment of a disaster situation. Come up with two key questions under each of the following five headings in your assessment list: i) General overview of the situation ii) water supply, iii) solid waste disposal, iv) excreta disposal, and v) vector-borne diseases. For the purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs, and identifying local resources in the disaster situation you are addressing.

Key Questions:

i) general overview of the situation:

Engage local community to participate immediately in all of the following questions.

1. What WASH facilities and services are currently available?
2. Does the affected population have access to essential hygiene items (such as soap, water containers, menstrual and incontinence items)?

ii) water supply

1. Is there adequate safe water supply within a suitable distance?
2. What needs to be done to protect the availability of adequate safe water in the foreseeable future?

iii) solid waste disposal

1. What solid waste disposal options are available?
2. Who will plan and be responsible for the disposal?

iv) excreta disposal

1. Does the population have access to safe hygienic excreta disposal?
2. What interventions are needed to ensure safe disposal?

v) vector-borne diseases

1. Assessing the demographic, environmental and social factors; which vector-borne diseases are likely to be a problem in this situation?
2. What interventions does the population need to protect themselves (ie education, nets, insecticides)?

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