**SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENT 1 FOR THE DIPLOMA IN WASH**

**BY**

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**AN ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF DIPLOMA IN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE TO THE AFRICA CENTRE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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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?
2. **With regard to the audience:**

* So as to spread information and raise awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene issues and therefore change people’s attitudes, the target group will be the people in rural and urban areas who have limited information about the topic. Also, priority would be given to the vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, refugees, etc.
* So as to reach most users, vernacular language could be used when applicable.
* I would encourage the audience to participate with the radio station. This can be achieved through the direct involvement of the people, through interviews, phone-in programmes, letters, or recordings of outside events. (Burke, 1999)
* Recruit allies among the public and decision-makers to help solve the water, sanitation, and hygiene issues. (COHRE, AAAS, SDC & UN-HABITAT, 2007)

1. **With regard to the WASH message, the radio station would:**

* Inform the public about issues on the water, sanitation and hygiene and proposed solutions.
* Educate the audience on the effects of inadequate provision of WASH, such as the increased risk of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, malaria, etc.
* Educate the audience on how infections can be transmitted through the consumption of contaminated food, vectors, and hand to mouth transmission.
* The radio station would advocate for:

1. the provision of provision of safe water for drinking, washing and domestic activities;
2. Safe removal of wastes (toilets and waste disposal) and
3. Promotion environmental hygiene activities
4. Encourages protective healthy behavioral practices amongst population (whether or not affected).
5. In your own words, what is your understanding of public health and what are its key elements?

**My Understanding of Public Health**

Public Health is the science and practice of protecting and improving the health of people, their communities, and entire countries as a whole. This work is accomplished by encouraging healthy lifestyles, investigating disease and injury prevention, detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious diseases. In Public Health, health problems of communities as a whole are addressed, and policies developed to influence the health of societies.

Public Health is important because it saves money and improves quality of life, helps children thrive, and reduces human suffering.

Through activities ranging from basic research, to ground-breaking efforts such as vaccination programs, promotion of healthy lifestyles and environments, disease control, and leadership on health policy formation, public health issues and outcomes influence the lives of people throughout the world.

Public Health is also an interdisciplinary field as it gathers resources and information from natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. As a Civil Engineer, I require knowledge of Public Health to design infrastructure to provide clean drinking water and treat wastewater, etc.

**Key Elements of Public Health**

1. **Prevention:** where Public Health is the focusses on the prevention of disease and promoting good health within groups of people, ranging from individuals, to small communities and to entire countries.
2. **Policy Development and Population Health Surveillance** i.e. Public health professionals rely on policy and research strategies to understand issues such as infant mortality and chronic disease in particular populations.

**Other Key Elements include:**

1. Advocacy with governments to prioritize WASH investments.
2. Partnerships with private sector on social marketing of soap, chlorine tablets etc.
3. Research.
4. Investments in water supply systems in communities and schools.
5. Behavior change communication.
6. Training and capacity building.
7. Public health is about partnership between the different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of
8. 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
9. **Recruitment**

Recruitment can be defined as the set of activities for an organization to attract job candidates who have the capabilities and attitudes needed to assist the organization accomplish its goals. The success of recruitment depends upon its ability to create a large pool of competent applicants. Better recruitment and selection strategies result in improved organizational out-comes. Developed countries and NGOs emphasize professionalism and career orientations and implement long-term, forward looking approaches in their selection and recruitment of employees. Most developing countries, however, do not possess HR/ personnel management practices of their own, and therefore have poor recruitment processes (Rakib,2013).

If an NGO engages in poor recruitment practices, the projects will lack competent personnel to execute and maintain, leading to the failure of such projects. (Breaugh & Starke, 2000)

1. **Training**

Training involves the acquisition and changing of specific skills, knowledge, attitude, and social behavior for the purpose of an occupation or work. Training means to help employees apply compliance concepts to their jobs (Nebo, Kenneth & Egole,2015).

NGOs usually provide increased financial and administrative support for developing countries for training of developing countries (and assist them to develop their own training programs) to enhance their partnership role in project design and implementation.

With proper training, projects in the developing countries can easily be executed and maintained without heavy reliance on the NGOs, reducing project costs and stimulating development. Poor or lack of training mean that the projects cannot be managed, evaluated or be improved, and therefore leading to failure of such projects.

1. **Funding**

Water supply, sanitation and hygiene are expensive projects which require careful financial planning, both for the initial investment costs and for the long-term maintenance and operations costs, as well as auxiliary costs such as education, promotion, monitoring and management (Mara & Evans, 2011). NGOs can play important roles in mobilising financial resources and technical expertise from governments and private sources, supporting governments to implement the right to water and sanitation, and supporting civil society organisations to assist in this capacity.

When the NGOs co-ordinate their assistance, administrative systems and conditions they can avoid an unnecessary burden for the national governments of the developing countries. This is because such developing countries do not have enough capital to fund such projects.

Therefore, sufficient funding is required throughout the project duration to ensure the success of these projects.

1. **Monitoring**

Monitoring is a process that helps improve performance and achieve results. Its goal is to improve current and future management of outputs, outcomes, and impact. It is mainly used to assess the performance of projects, institutions and programs set up by governments, international organisations and NGOs. It establishes links between the past, present and future actions (UNDP, 2002).

Developing countries tend to have less established/effective state monitoring bodies than more developed countries. Lack or poor monitoring of projects by the NGOs can lead to failures of those projects as they would be meeting their intended objectives.

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