**ASSIGNMENT 1**

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?

**Answer#1**

The community radio station will broadcast its airtime by arranging the time to address water, sanitation and hygiene issues:

1. **Audience**

Classification of the audience into clusters will be done at first according to their level of understanding, i.e. school children and adults.

The message to school children will be broadcasted by arranging separate class for water, sanitation and hygiene according to their levels. During the broadcasting time there will be mentor or class teacher who take the responsibility to tame the attention of the students while attending the WASH. To follow the class attentively brochures or leaflets need to be prepared in line with the school curriculum. At the end of every broadcasting there will be a summary of the day’s lesson and thought-provoking question and answer session to be follow up by the pupil. At the beginning of every broadcasting there would be a short refreshing time about the previous lesson learnt.

Adult audiences would also be further clustered into groups of women groups (housewives with children, single mothers with children, old women), adult girls, young men and elders. The broadcasting time will be arranged during appropriate time for all community members. Preferably it will be broadcasted during off-hours where everyone is home after working hours. For the message to be properly grasped by all it will be broadcasted with a local language that could be understood by all. The message will be simple to understand and in more illustrative way that every community member could remember and practice it properly.

1. **WASH messages**

The Community Radio Station would focus on broadcasting WASH message through sensitization, awareness raising and enlighten community members basic WASH Practices. The message would focus on the link between WASH and public health. The basic WASH Practices would incorporate:

* **Personal hygiene practices:** the unit or base for one community is an individual. Linking WASH and public health would include keeping bodies, household utensils, food, sanitary places such as toilets and latrines and their living environment clean, free of any unhygienic situation all the time. Community members should be aware and acquire enough knowledge on the main disease causative agents. They need to follow hygienic procedures and keep neatness of their bodies, i.e. they need to focus on more preventative than curative way. Community members should think in a way that individual effort will lead to collective effort, so that each community member would contribute to the whole community’s wellbeing positively. Community members should have a clear understanding that personal hygiene plays a crucial role in community hygiene, and individuals have a responsibility to their own health, family’s and neighbors. Therefore, individuals should practice good personal hygiene and sanitation so that their community would be healthy. They need to clearly understand that “Prevention is better than cure” and healthy and productive community is the result of healthy individuals.
* **Environmental hygiene practices:** healthy and sound community is the result of clean and healthy environment. Unsanitary environment always leads to unhealthy individual and that also leads to unhealthy community. If community doesn’t practice good and hygienic way of keeping its environment, there is high probability of disease outbreak in that community. Therefore, for a community to have disease free and productive members, proper WASH practice is essential to be followed within that community. The radio broadcasting will be done at certain days and time during the week and will also cover different WASH lessons with more elaboration.

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

**Answer #2**

My understanding of public health is that it is related to preventative way than curative. It is concerned more in preventing community health hazards. Mainly it is focused more on the safety, hygiene and sanitation of people. Public health acts at grass root level to halt or block those risks that cause a health hazard from spreading into communities.

To my understanding the key elements of public health are:

* Assessing what are the main public health concerns in a given community in a participatory way;
* Identify what are the main health problems and hazards;
* Sensitize, inform and raise awareness of the community regarding main public health hazards in the area;
* Create a linkage or network on how to identify and solve health problems within the community;
* Draft, design and develop public health policy in participatory method with full engagement of the community and/or its representatives;
* Train community members to have clear understanding of public health hazards and on how to mitigate them;
* Creating strong linkage among the community and public health services;
* Create an enabling environment for the community to have access to public health services;
* Bring capable and well capacitated public health workforce to the board;
* Conduct joint evaluation on the effectiveness, quality of services provided; achievements and impact of public health services on the wellbeing of the community;
* Design or forecast a way forward plan for further expansion and progress.

1. Public health is about partnership between the different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of
2. 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

**Answer #3**

In running or handling of public health projects partnership is essential to support the limited resources. In running a public health project, the public sector or government might face limitations in resources. Resource assessment is required to be done at the grass root level before designing a public health project to be implemented by community. Once availability of resources is assessed, the next step will be resource mobilization. Resources can be mobilized from government, community own contribution, private organizations and NGOs. It would be very difficult for a public health project to be successful without engagement of all concerned parties. Therefore, role of each concerned body needs to define at initial stage of project design. During implementation all parties will play their role for the success of the project by forming partnership among themselves.

Partnership by different players is essential for public health to be successful in all its activities. In such cases role of international non-profit/NGO is crucial in recruitment of personnel who is fully engaged in running public health activities within communities in the developing countries. International non-profit/NGO will engage in recruitment practices to ensure sustainability of public health system. The role of International non-profit/NGO would be in providing assessment or research, support and expertise who is capable to strengthen the community and civil society informing public health policy to the public. The International non-profit/NGO will ratify how employee will be compensated in a way that public health practice would be strengthened within the countries. It will initiate to create and maintain human resources training and support systems that are good for communities where they are working. NGOs will minimize the burden faced by the concerned health sector Ministries to manage NGOs. Community engagement of concerned public health bodies will get support from the NGOs. With regards to monitoring and follow up of public health projects in developing countries, NGOs will mobilize resources for the success of the public health projects. Therefore, NGOs play a great role from initiation, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of public health projects in developing countries.

1. 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, namely i) General overview of the situation ii) Water supply iii) Solid-waste disposal iv) Excreta disposal and v) Vector-borne diseases for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing.

**Answer#4**

1. **General overview of the situation**

* How severe is the situation? Degree of the disaster in terms of area coverage and affected population.
* Who are the most vulnerable group? (in terms of population, age group i.e. children, older people, physical disability, gender, etc.)

1. **Water supply**

* Is there any reliable water supply in terms of adequacy and safety?
* What should be done to guarantee sustainable water supply for the people in the disaster situation?

1. **Solid-waste disposal**

* What are health and environmental issues caused by solid waste produced at household level, their risk to community health in the disaster situation?
* What mechanism would be designed to dispose and how they can be safely managed to prevent environmental hazard and public health hazard to the people in the disaster situation?

1. **Excreta disposal**

* How do people in the disaster situation dispose their excreta/open defecation or use toilets and/or latrines? Are there proper excreta disposal facilities?
* What kind of excreta disposal facilities would be designed in order to prevent spread of infectious diseases like diarrhea to the people in the disaster situation?

1. **Vector-borne diseases**

* What are the most endemic (widespread) vector borne diseases in the area?
* What preventative measures will be taken to control and/or eradicate them?