**Abdoul Hamid Balde**

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**MODULE ONE OR WEEK 1 ASSIGNMENT**

**Question 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?**

**Audience:**

**WASH messages:**

Media plays a significant role in spreading awareness on water and sanitation, they enable to influence and change public opinion and behaviours.

Radio campaigns are an efficient tool to influence the public opinion because radios reach a wider audience and is accessible to people.

The involvement of the public will increase the decision makers’ attention to the water and sanitation topic, therefore radio campaigns can have a direct effect on the public attitude and behaviour.

Radio listening is usually done in groups this therefore encourages the discussion of educational issues after the broadcast.

It plays a significant role in increasing participation and opinion sharing, improving knowledge and skills.

The hygiene behaviours I would put focus on water protection, proper disposal of solid waste water drainage, controlling animal rearing, market hygiene, public food hygiene, hand washing, bathing, laundering, airing beddings, house hold food hygiene

With sanitation focus would be on excreta disposal, vector control, solid and medical waste management

WASH messages are hygiene promotion, home water treatment, sanitation promotion.

I would address water, sanitation and hygiene issues in the following ways:

Involvement of the community, this would be through participation as it’s a media that allows almost anybody’s participation.

We would engage in discussions on how excreta should be disposed of, public food hygiene, treatment of water in household levels.

Create drama series and soap operas that would be aired on the radio station as this allows the repetition of educational messages all throughout the series.

People enjoy listening to these series while in groups.

These drama series would focus on the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation, how to maintain proper hygiene as the drama series would be focusing on this mainly.

I would create short radio spots with traditional songs, composition of sanitation messages. Through this messages like how it is important to ensure proper hygiene, hand to wash hands properly, market hygiene, the importance of bathing.

Creation of memorable phrases that would be aired on the radios, these phrases would stay with the audience for a long time.

Like for example according to WHO (2008) 2.6 billion people lack access to sanitation, 88% of all diarrhoeal deaths are attributed to unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation and hygiene, hand washing is estimated to reduce the risk of contracting diarrhoea diseases by 42-47%.

Having interviews with the listeners, with this the audience would have an opportunity of asking questions and get the needed response from the practitioners.

For example, we can organise a training and interview session in a specific area and the session can be aired live on the radio for those who were not able to attend for them to also listen. The findings also from the interview can also be used for future reference on how best to ensure proper hygiene.

**Question 2**

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

This is the science and art of preventing diseases, prolonging life and promoting human health through organised efforts and informed choices of society, organisations, public and private communities and individuals.

Public health aims to improve the quality of life through prevention and treatment of diseases, this is done through the surveillance of cases and health indicators and through the promotion of healthy behaviours.

Common public health initiatives include; promoting hand washing, delivery of vaccinations to both adults and children, behaviour change communication, training and capacity building.

Public health is concerned with protecting the health of the entire population.

These populations can be as small as a local neighbourhood, as big as an entire country or

region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses who focus on treating individuals after they become sick or injured.

A larger part of public health is promoting health care, equity, quality and accessibility.

**The essential key elements of public health include:**

Monitoring the health status of the communities by identifying any health problem.

Diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the community.

Informing, educating and empowering people about different health issues.

Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

Developing policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

Linking people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

Assuring a competent workforce for public health and personal health care.

Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based services.

Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

**Question 3**

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

**Recruitment**

**Training**

**Funding**

**Monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries?**

NGOs include different categories of entities that operate not to obtain financial gain and do not belong to the government sector.

The main tasks of NGOs in the health system are providing services and health advocacy. Provision of services include medical, social and psychological services, care and nursing, material and financial support, educational and information services and training.

At all levels, local, national and international, NGOs represent the voice of the people.

They have taken on roles such as advocacy, education, and training and have been active in monitoring what has and what has not been achieved

One of the most important roles that NGOs under take is advocacy, their aims and objectives are usually focused on improving the lives of their constituents and the communities in which they work.

They have become increasingly effective as advocates at all levels, local, national and international

They are involved in training and training programs.

They have therefore helped in bringing about the changes which will have to be put to place to ensure proper health care.

Many of them have developed training programmes which can easily be adapted to take into account the special needs of the health sector.

However, NGOs are criticised for only being accountable to their funders than those they serve, because they are largely dependent on funding, their projects are crafted in line with donor preferences instead of those they supposedly represent

NGO workers tend to be foreigners or local elites.

Instead of empowering local populations to organise themselves, NGOs provide employment and a sense of purpose for elites with degrees

In my own opinion much as NGOs haven’t been 100% successful in the implementation of public health projects, they have had a great contribution towards the improvement of health care in most of the developing countries.