



EDO UNIVERSITY IYAMHO

Department of Nursing Science

NSC 302 Community Health Nursing/Praticum



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General overview of lecture: This course has two aspects: theoretical part and practical part: the theory aspect introduces the student to primary health care (PHC) as the chosen health care system to providing healthcare for all irrespective of social status, age, creed, religion, race, gender etc. the main focus will be to expose the student to the skills, and knowledge needed to work collaboratively with other health care workers in the community in order to assist individuals, families, and communities in identifying, prioritising and attending to their health needs in a responsible and sustainable manner. Therefore, the course will focus on the following: historical antecedent of PHC; PHC philosophy, concepts, and principles; health patterns in the community; organisation and scope of PHC in Nigeria; approaches to PHC (i.e. multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches); components of PHC; and management in PHC. It will also cover the introduction to community health nursing, concepts in the community, history, components, and principles of community health nursing, basic and scientific principles and practice of community health and primary health care programmes, family and community health nursing diagnosis, through organised exposure to community health/primary health care programmes. The roles of the community health nurse, community mobilisation, types of community. School health services.

The practical aspect will cover both the laboratory and clinical practice of community health nursing. Organised exposure should take the following format:

- i. A period of posting to a defined rural geographical-political community.
- ii. Analysis and presentation of the data to describe community health problems, Social and health needs and draw inferences for service objectives related to specific preventive, promotive and health maintenance strategies.

Prerequisite: The students are expected to have taken and passed Foundation of Nursing courses at second year of study, and therefore, have an understanding of the concepts of nursing, health, man and environment, the history of nursing and the roles and functions of a nurse in the delivery of health care.

Learning outcomes: At the completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. Display an understanding of basic terminologies used in Community Health Nursing and Primary Health Care.

2. Give the historical account of Community Health Nursing and Primary Health Care.
3. Demonstrate ability to distinguish between Community Health and personal health.
4. Identify the principles, elements and components of Primary Health Care as well as the role of the Primary Health Care Nurse.
5. Appreciate the difference between Community Health Nursing Diagnosis and individual nursing diagnosis.
6. Identify major role and function of the Community Health Nurse.
7. Appreciate the importance of School Health Programme and the role of the School Health Nurse.

Assignments: the course is designed in such a way that the students will be assigned topics for term paper (due in week 10) in addition to a Midsemester Test (week 7) and a Final Exam (end of semester). This will be followed by a 6-week concentrated clinical posting to a comprehensive primary health care centre in a rural community, where students are expected to hone their practical skills using the theoretical knowledge gained in the class room. The concentrated clinical posting will also afford the students opportunity to carry out a community assessment, diagnosis, plan and implement community health nursing actions to resolve the diagnosis. Students will be expected to prepare a detailed report in Word document and PowerPoint which will be presented to the department of nursing science at the end of the posting.

Grading: We will assign 5% of this class grade to term paper, 10% for the mid-semester test, 35% for the community posting project report presentation and 50% for the final exam. The Final exam will be comprehensive.

Textbooks: The recommended textbooks for this class are as stated:

Title: *Community/public health nursing: Promoting the health of populations*

Authors: J. A. Allender, C. Rector, K. D. Warner

Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 7th Edition

ISBN: 13: 978-0-7817-6584-8

Year: 2010

Title: *Community health nursing*

Author(s): B. T. Basavanthappa

Publisher: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, 2nd Edition

ISBN: 81-8448-096-2

Year: 2008

Title: *An introduction to community and public health*

Author: J. F. McKenzie, R. R. Pinger & D. M. Seabert

Publisher: Jones and Barlett Learning, 9th edition,

ISBN: 9781284108415

Year: 2018

Main Lecture: Below is a description of the contents.

Introduction and Overview

Community health nursing is one of the oldest nursing specialty (Allender, Rector, & Warner, 2010). It is a community-based practice that is focused on population as against hospital-based nursing practice which focuses on individuals (Allender et al., 2010). The main purpose of this specialty of nursing is to improve the health of the general public (Allender et al., 2010) through promotion, prevention, and rehabilitation of health of the population. This is carried out through assessment of population health status, needs assessment on a community and devising interventions to meet the needs so identified (Allender et al., 2010). Promoting health at the community level is very important because, although, as individuals we can make effort to improve our personal health which contribute to the overall health of the community, community resources are needed to tackle health challenges such as, disease outbreak, bioterrorism etc that exceed the resources of any one individual (Mckenzie, Pinger, & Seabert, 2018).

Therefore, the purpose of this course is to introduce nursing students in third year of study to the nursing specialty of community health nursing; hence, it will cover concepts, principles, and components of community health nursing and primary health care as well as the use of the nursing process in the community.

Intended Learning Outcome

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:

- 1) Define a community.
- 2) Describe the functions and characteristics of a community.
- 3) Discuss the types of community relevant to community health nursing.
- 4) Differentiate between community, population and aggregate

Definitions of Community

Of what importance is community to nursing? What is the relationship between community and health? To answer the two questions above, let's define community. The word 'community' was coined from two Latin words, 'com' meaning 'together' and 'munis' meaning 'to serve' (Basavanthappa, 2008). Therefore, community can be defined as *to serve together*. Other definitions include:

A community is a collection of an interdependent people with residential ties to a particular locality (Basavanthappa, 2008).

A community is a living population within a limited geographical area carrying on a common interest (Lundberg in Basavanthappa, 2008).

A community is an organic, natural kind of social group whose members are bound together by a sense of belonging, created out of everyday contacts covering the whole range of human activities (Ferdinand Tonnies in Basavanthappa, 2008).

The above definitions defined community in terms of a geographic unit with specific boundaries demarcating one community from another. However, in community/health nursing, a community 'is a collective body of individuals identified by common characteristics such as geography, interests, experiences, concerns, or values' (Joint Committee on Health Education and Promotion Terminology, 2012). A community is a collection of people who share some important feature of their lives (Allender et al., 2010).

You can see from the definitions of community that a community encompasses social, physical, economic, spiritual and cultural dimensions of humans interwoven together, and these dimensions could impact an individual's health and wellbeing. In the context of community health nursing, the following could be regarded as community: Iyamho village (location), all the Yoruba people in EUI (ethnicity), 300L nursing students at EUI (common bond), all the academic staff in EUI (occupation).

Functions of a Community

The following are some of the functions of a community:

- 1) It serves as the medium for the development of its inhabitants.
- 2) It provides opportunities for interaction between individuals and groups.
- 3) To transmit information, ideas, and beliefs.
- 4) It influences the health and lifestyle of its inhabitants.
- 5) It fosters a collective sense of belonging.
- 6) There is shared common interests and concerns.

Characteristics of a Community

According to Mckenzie et al., (2018) the following are what characterised a community:

- 1) Membership - a sense of identity and belonging.
- 2) Common symbol systems - similar language, rituals, and ceremonies
- 3) Shared values and norms.
- 4) Mutual influence - community members have influence and are influenced by each other.
- 5) Shared needs and commitment to meeting them, and
- 6) Shared emotional connection—members share common history, experiences, and mutual support.

Types of Community

There are three types of communities that are of relevance to community health nursing practice and they are geographic, common interest, and health problem or solution (Allender et al., 2010).

1) Geographic Community

This is a collection of people who live in an area that has well-defined boundaries with a network of institutions, such as families, schools, hospital, religious houses organised into a social system. It varies in size, population and number of social systems available. With certain characteristics, such as age, sex ratios, a typical geographic community could be a quarter,

district, village, hamlet or city. This type of community is useful for the analysis of health needs and interventions to meet the needs because it can be easily mobilised for action (Allender et al., 2010).

2) Common Interest Community

A community where the main binding force is common goal irrespective the geographical location is referred to as common interest community (Allender et al., 2010). For instance, members of Omega Fire Ministry, Auchi could be referred to as a community of common interest. Even members of National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives could be grouped as community of interest.

These people do not live within a geographical location but share common goal. Although, sometimes, people who live within a certain geographical location may develop a sense of community by promoting their common interest e.g. Igbo people spread throughout Auchi may emerge as a community through a common interest in promoting unity, cultural traits and language.

3) Community of Solution

When a group of persons living with or experiencing common problem come together to work out such a problem, they could be referred to as a community of solution. In this type of community, the nature of the problem determine the shape, the size of the geographic area affected, and the number of resources needed to address the problem (Allender et al., 2010). For example, during the Ebola outbreak of 2014, a community of solution of sort was formed to tackle the outbreak among the affected countries in West Africa.

Difference between Community, Population and Aggregate

A collection of people could be referred to as a community if they chose to interact with one another because of common interests, characteristics, or goals. However, if the collection of people occupies an area but do not necessarily interact with one another nor share a sense of belonging, then it is a population. Population is useful in community health for epidemiologic study and for collecting demographic data for purposes such as, health planning (Allender et al., 2010).

An aggregate is a grouping of distinct individuals who are considered as a whole. Individuals who form an aggregate are usually loosely associated with one another e.g., an aggregate of menopausal women, young children living with HIV/AIDS. Both communities and populations are types of aggregates.

Conclusion

So far, we have been able to peak into what community health nursing entails as well as looked at the various perspectives as regards what a community means to community health nurses. We were able to point out that, as far as community health nursing is concern, a community means much more than a geographic location because problems (mainly health) and shared goals could

bring people from diverse locality together. We also looked at the characteristics and functions of a community. Next, we will look at the concepts of health, illness and wellness.

References

Allender, J. A., Rector, C., & Warner, K. D. (2010). *Community/public health nursing: Promoting the health of populations* (7th ed.). Philadelphia, USA: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Mckenzie, J. F., Pinger, R. R., & Seabert, D. M. (2018). *An introduction to community and public health* (9th ed.). Burlington, USA: Jones & Barlett Learning.

