

ABSTRACT

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTH FOR ALL IN THE 21st CENTURY THAILAND, APRIL 7 - 11, 1999

A. Kamalamma

International Symposium on Health for All in the 21st Century was held from 7-11 April, 99 at ASEAN Institute for Health Development, Mahidol University, Thailand.

The ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD) is Internationally recognised for its many achievements in the area of health and development for rural and urban settings. This symposium was organised by AIHD in order to contribute to the response to the changing needs of individuals, countries and organisations.

The main objectives of symposium were to exchange knowledge and experience as well as to enhance networking and unity among Primary Health Care (PHC) leaders attending symposium. To develop strategies and recommendations for sustainable Primary Health Care Programmes.

International Resource Persons, Local Resource Persons and participants from sixteen countries attended the symposium, countries participated were: Bangladesh, Cambodia Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Lao PDR, Malawi, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Yemen, Philippines etc.

From India there were three participants. Some participants presented research papers regarding experiences on Primary Health Care, Health for All, Movement and Quality of Life. The author of this article Smt. A. Kamalamma presented paper on "Community Leadership for PHC/HFA, which was well received and pertinent to the topic of

symposium.

Since the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held at ALMA-ATA in 1978, the call for HFA by the year 2000 through PHC has provided a motivating and unifying concept in international development and made an important contribution to achievements in terms of better health in different parts of the world seen as increased life expectancy, declining infant mortality, maternal mortality and improved access to basic health services. However, as the target date approaches it can now be such as limiting and above all not universally attainable.

Prof. Dr. Krasae, in his opening address, cited few examples of remaining challenges.

- * We are still confronted with a host of communicable diseases both old and newly emerging.
- * Violence, accidents and injuries are increasing at an alarming rate.
- * Regions' population continues to grow rapidly.
- * Increase in mental health problems caused by stress related living.
- * Gender inequities causing serious deprivation of the girl child and women.
- * Women's health, where there is continuing high maternal mortality and morbidity.
- * Malnutrition especially affecting women and children.
- * Unsustainable development has brought in its wake pollution and the outbreak of diseases caused primarily by improper water and waste management.
- * Natural and man-made disasters causing people to become homeless-hungry and poor, which will again lead to ill health.

Mr. B. S. LAMBA, Regional Advisor, Primary Health care, WHO/SEARO - New Delhi, in his key note Lecture explained about opportunities - Risks and Challenges.

Opportunities

- * Globalisation
- * Science & Technology
- * Approach to Development.
- * Good Government-partnership.

Risks

- * Increasing poverty
- * War / strife / conflict
- * Economic Decline / Stagnation / Crisis.

Challenges

- * Maximise opportunities and eliminate / minimise risks.
- * Health in socio economic development prospective.
- * Partnerships for health.

Dr. Dev. Ray, Dept. of Health systems, WHO Headquarters, in his key-note Lecture, presented keys for HFA - i.e.

- * Good governance
- * Partnerships for Health.
- * Health watch functions.
- * Role of government.

Dr. John Bryant in his special Lecture, mentioned about Recommendations of UNICEF - includes:

- * Decentralisation of services to improve district health services are essential to provide an organisational framework for peripheral programmes and effective linkages between PHC and Hospitals.
- * Greatly expanded attention →

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to comprehensive development in early childhood with methods of learning and stimulation that help children achieve their full potential.

Dr. Som-arch Wongkhomthong Director, AIHD, in a panel discussion on "Opportunities and Challenges for HFA in the 21st Century" - presented the following strategies, opportunities and challenges for HFA in the 21st Century.

Key strategies to solve Health problems in Developing Countries:

1. Active promotion of people participation in health care activities in
 - * Health promotion
 - * Disease prevention
 - * Treatment of Common diseases.
2. Development and marketing of appropriate medical technology which is
 - * Cheap
 - * Easy to maintain
 - * Durable

Opportunities and challenges for HFA in the 21st Century:

1. For the Low Income Countries (GNP / Capital 500 US \$)
 - * Setting up national PHC system
 - * Education of community health volunteers.
 - * Improvement of health centre facility
 - * Pilot projects for prevention and treatment of some selected diseases based on community participation.
2. For the Lower middle income Countries (GNP / Capita 500 - 2500 US \$)
 - * Improvement of PHC Quality
 - * Promotion of operation research for the development of PHC.
 - * Improvement of district hospital facilities.
 - * Strengthening referral system from community to health countries and district hospitals.

3. For some Upper Middle Income Countries

(G. NP / Capita 2500 - 8000 US \$)

- * Improvement of provincial hospital facilities.
- * Strengthening referral system in the province.
- * Promotion of health system research.
- * Setting up focal points for south to south cooperation.

4. For all Developing Countries Research, Development and Marketing of appropriate medical technology which is

- * Simple to use
- * easy to maintain
- * resistant to high temperature
- * durable
- * at the cost of 1/10 - 1/100 of Tokyos price.



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