

Community Health Nursing

Introduction to community health nursing

Introduction : Community health nursing combines certain fundamental principles of public health science with current community nursing practice .

Health : A complete state of physical ,mental, and social well being . (WHO 1948)

Health : A positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capacities . (WHO 1986)

Health : The state of balance between illness and wellness . It ranges between potential and optimum levels .

Overall , health is achieved through a combination of physical, mental , emotional , and social well-being .

Nursing : A scientific discipline in which a professional nurse can deliver a comprehensive nursing care "preventive , curative , and rehabilitative "to individual ,family, group and community who share common needs and problems .

Community : A group of people who share some type of bond , who interact with one another , and who function collectively regarding common concerns .

Community health : The identification of needs & the protection and improvement of health within a geographically defined area .

Public health : The science of preventing disease , prolong life , and promoting health through organized community efforts for the sanitation of environment , control of communicable infections , education of individual in personal hygiene , organization of medical and nursing services for early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease , and the development of social machinery to insure everyone a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health and longevity .

Community health nursing :?

Population: Groups of people who may or may not interact with each other . It may also refer to specific groups of people with some trait or attribute in common .

These groups can be:

1 - **Aggregates** : Subpopulations within the larger population who possess some common characteristics , often related to high risk for specific health problems such as ; school-age children , human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection , pregnant adolescents , the elderly .

2 - A neighborhood: A smaller more homogenous group and involves an interface with others living nearby and a level of identification with those others.

The mission of community health nursing : The primary mission of CHN is improving the overall health of the population through health promotion ,illness prevention , and protection of the public from a wide variety of biological , behavioral , social , and environmental threats .

Characteristics of CHN :

- 1 - Emphasizes the health of the population as a whole**
- 2 - Focuses on preventive rather than curative care**
- 3 - Involves collaboration with other members of the health care team**
- 4 - Encourages the client's active participation in addressing the health problem .**
- 5 - It focuses on population & environmental factors that may impact on people's health .**
- 6 - It is a field of nursing**

Roles & Functions of Community Health Nurse

A. Regarding client :

- 1 - Caregiver**
- 2 - Educator**
- 3 - Counselor**
- 4 - Referral**
- 5 - Case manager : coordinates and directs the selection and use of health care services to meet clients needs , and solve their problems**

B- Regarding delivery of health care (delivery-oriented) role

- 1 - Coordinator /care manager**
- 2 - Collaborator**
- 3 - Liaison**

C. Population-oriented role

- 1 - Case finder**
- 2 - Leader**

3 - Change agent (changing behaviors)

4 - Community mobilize (to implement strategies that address local concerns)

5 - Policy advocate (policy that influence the health of population groups)

6 - Researcher

| No | Public health | Community health |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Involves the health of the whole nation | Involves the health of specific community |
| 2 | Protects the health of everyone | Protects the health of all those in a particular community |
| 3 | Gives free health care to individuals | Keeps the food , water supply , and general environment healthy for the community |