



Technical Discussions



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COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PROPOSED STUDY GUIDE

The working document entitled "Community Health Services and Community Involvement" provides, in the various aspects it covers, material for a proper discussion of the subject. However, in view of the limited time available, the groups that will be set up following the panel discussion should focus their attention on the following:

1. Nature of Community Involvement in Health Services

1.1 Definition of community involvement in terms of the economic and social development of the countries and of the specific objectives proposed at the present time by the ministries of health concerned.

1.2 Background to community involvement in the operation of health services in the urban and rural areas of the countries in the Region.

1.3 Methods and instruments that have been used to foster and promote the participation of community groups in support of health activities.

1.4 Effectiveness of community participation in the achievement of the goals of the health sector, with special reference to:

- Specific indicators in use and/or being proposed
- Studies required for that purpose

2. Health Services and Community Involvement in the Light of the Requirements of the Ten-year Health Plan for the Americas

2.1 Analysis of forms of community participation, according to the experience of the countries of the Region.

2.2 Requirements for the implementation of community participation in health plans.

2.3 Specific contribution of other national institutions to the conduct of health programs.

2.4 Mechanisms for proper intersectoral coordination.

3. Training of Personnel to Increase the Effectiveness of Health Services with the Participation of the Population

3.1 Weak areas in the present education and training of health personnel at different working levels, especially in the mastery of methods and skills for promoting and working with community groups.

3.2 Need to train other types of personnel, e.g., volunteers and users of health services, in health education.

3.3 Prerequisite for the collaboration of universities and ministries of health in programs for the development of health services with community participation.

3.4 Cooperation of other government and private institutions for that purpose.