WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SOUTH-EAST ASIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

Sixth Session, New Delhi, India
1 - 4 April 1980

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH
HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Health Services Research was identified as a priority area by the SEA/ACMR at its first session in 1976. Since then, three Research Study Group meetings have been held for the development of the programme. The deliberations of the Research Study Groups culminated in identifying specific research area classified under several headings. The research needs identified by these Groups and presented in the Progress Report made to the Fifth Session of the SEA/ACMR are recapitulated below. These are:

(1) identification of needs and demands
(2) community participation
(3) intersectoral coordination and action
(4) management of PHC programmes including evaluation and information support
(5) development of health manpower with emphasis on community health workers
(6) financing of primary health care
(7) appropriate technology for PHC
(8) traditional medicine
(9) basic health services hospital infrastructure support to primary health care.

The research projects in operation as well as under consideration falling within these areas are listed in document SEA ACMR/6/5. A summary statement in respect of each of these projects giving current status is give in Appendix A. In addition, a number of research projects on Health Services Research are being supported in the countries of the Region through Headquarters.

It will be appreciated that the research proposals so far received do not cover all the areas as yet. However, SEARO is progressively promoting research on all the areas mentioned above. With regard to some such as Community Participation and Development of Health Manpower with emphasis on Community Health Workers, interim reports of activities to generate research are given in Annex I and II. In the field of Appropriate Technology for Health, action programme contemplated is given in Annex III.

As a follow-up to the proposals made in the Progress Report to the Fifth Session of the SEA/ACMR, i.e. that steps would be initiated to develop a curriculum for a course in health services research training, a Regional Pre-orientation Workshop was held at SEARO, New Delhi, from 28 to 30 November 1979 which was attended by high level policy makers and research scientists. The participants to this workshop recognized the concern and consensus of the SEA/ACMR that there was a need for the development of a critical mass of local cadres with capability in health services research. The workshop concluded with the development of a broad outline for a Regional Multi-disciplinary course. The outline of which is given below:
Segment I

(3 - 5 days) Basic concepts and scope of Health Services Research
Behavioral and technological requirements for Health Services Research
Organization and Management of Health Services Research

Segment II

(7 - 10 days) Research methodologies in Health Services Research

Segment III

(3 - 5 days) Illustration of Health Services Research Projects (1-2 days)
Field study in Health Services Research designed, implemented and analysed by participants working in multi-disciplinary teams (2-3 days)

Segment IV

(2 - 3 days) Development of Health services research proposal by participants working in country teams.

The Regional Office is taking action to organize the multi-disciplinary course suggested at this meeting as well as to promote national courses in Health Services Research. In the latter connection, it may be opportune to mention that countries of our Region have been conducting such national courses and during the years 1979-80 SEARO has supported three courses in health services research methods in Thailand.

With the affirmation by the World Health Assembly, through its resolution WHA30.43, of the universal social goal of health for all by the year 2000 (HFA 2000) and with the declaration of Alma Ata, which endorsed primary health care as the key to attaining of this target. It is now necessary to reorient the overall policy, main thrust and activities in this Region towards Health For All objectives and goals. Another important need is sharing of experiences and exercise among the member countries in the spirit of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. Equally imperative is the need to expand intensify Health Services Research activities in support of national strategies addressed to Health For All objectives.
It is proposed that the HSR programme be governed by the following overall objectives:

- To collaborate with member countries in the promotion and development of HSR including training of multi-disciplinary groups focussed on solution of national problems with particular reference to the objectives of Health For All by the Year 2000 utilizing Primary Health Care as the Key Approach.

- To promote the sharing of experience, expertise and training opportunities among member countries in the spirit of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.
1. Title: RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISABILITY PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION COMPONENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Genesis of the Programme

This research project was initiated by WHO/HQ in response to World Health Assembly Resolution 28.88 and the request of the Government of Indonesia.

Country: Indonesia

Name and address of the Institution

National Institute of Health Research and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia

Principal Investigator

Dr D.S. Kartari

Starting date and duration

1977 - 3 years

Problem and aim of the research study

Since no developing country had any reliable statistics on disabilities in the community a few sample surveys in different parts of the world were initiated. Indonesia and India agreed to participate in this study to:

(a) quantify the magnitude and pattern of the disability problem;

(b) analyse causes and pattern of accidents;

(c) study the psychosocial aspects of disability and its impact on socio-economic development.

Method/Approach

A representative sample was selected from the combined populations of Java, Bali, Sulawesi and Sumatra (Total population in 1971 - 107.5 million).

25,000 to 30,000 individuals calculated at one per cent level were investigated.

A questionnaire was developed and tested in order to fulfil the objectives of the study.
This draft questionnaire was tested in some areas of Central Java and in Jakarta during 1976-77.

Over 100 physicians were trained in survey techniques and in the use of the questionnaire.

Results/interim results

The survey was completed and currently data from project areas in Sumatra, Java and Bali are being analysed.

Significance of the study

The data obtained will be used to plan disability prevention in the context of primary health care as an integral part of existing health delivery system and medical rehabilitation activities.

Publications, if any

Progress reports given to WHO.

Source and quantum of funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>US $16 000</td>
<td>Provided by WHO/HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>US $20 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>US $10 000</td>
<td>Provided by SEARO - for data analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any other information of relevance

Nil


2. **Title of the Project**: STUDY ON THE APPLICATION OF RISK STRATEGIES IN MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

**Country**: Burma

**Name and address of the Institution**: Institute of Medicine-I, Department of Child Health Care, Rangoon.

**Principal Investigator**: Professor U Tin U

**Starting date and duration**: January 1980 - 3-1/2 years

**Problem and aim of the research study**: To test the risk strategy in reducing maternal, perinatal, infant and early childhood mortality and morbidity.

**Method**:

The ongoing development of a primary health care programme in Burma, with emphasis on the extension of health care coverage to all parts of the country, calls for a clear and operational description of the health care needs of pregnant mothers, infants and young children as well as for the detailed formulation and testing of strategies to meet these needs, within the existing resources. The recently completed study on Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight have provided good information on the health problems during pregnancy, delivery and early infancy, as well as coverage and utilization of health services during this period. The scene is therefore set for the formulation and testing of new strategies, following the basic principle of the Risk Approach namely - some care to all, more for those in need.

This prospective study is based on a common protocol developed during the meeting of the "Task Force on Risk Approach". The study will be carried out in the same area and population which were covered by the Perinatal Study, and also include a control area. In the study area mothers and children at risk according to risk approach will be identified by the existing health team. According to a management plan to be developed, the risk group will be managed. A package of primary care will be made available to all mothers, infants and young children by the existing health team.

**Results/interim results**: Commenced late 197

**Significance of the study**: Testing out the risk strategy would assist in promoting the delivery of maternal and child care in the context of primary health care and thereby towards HFA 2000.

**Publications, if any**:

**Source and quantum of funds**: US $ 60 000 - 1st year

**Any other information of relevance**
3. Title of the project: Study on the Application of Risk Strategies in Maternal and Child Care in Primary Health Care

Country: Thailand

Name and address of the Institution: Mahidol University, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medical College, Bangkok

Principal Investigator: Professor Vilai Benchaken

Starting date and duration: January 1980 - 3-1/2 years

Problem and aim of the research study: To study the logistics of risk approach strategy for implementation on national level

Method: Same as under Burma study.

Results/interim results: Commenced late 1979.

Significance of the study: Testing out the risk strategy would assist in promoting the delivery of maternal and child care in the context of primary health care and thereby towards HFA 2000

Publications, if any: 

Source and quantum of funds: US $ 44 000.- (1980)

Any other information of relevance: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4. Title of the project</strong></th>
<th>Pilot Study of a Simplified MCH data collection card</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name and address of the Institution</strong></td>
<td>Division of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Principal Investigator</strong></td>
<td>Dr Somsak Varakamin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Starting date and duration</strong></td>
<td>September 1979 - one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem and aim of the research study</strong></td>
<td>To test a simplified data collection system to meet the criteria of monitoring progress, lend itself easily to data processing and allows speedy data processing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Method</strong></td>
<td>Field study using existing health staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results/interim results</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significance of the study</strong></td>
<td>The results of this study would help to strengthen the MCH/FP information sub-system of the Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publications, if any</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source and quantum of funds</strong></td>
<td>US $ 4,600. -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any other information of relevance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Title of the project:** Study factors affecting Rural Low Birth Weight

**Country:** Thailand

**Name and address of the Institution:** Division of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Somsak Varakamin

**Starting date and duration:** September 1979 - one year

**Problem and aim of the research study:** To study factors affecting rural birth weights and based on the findings to form policies for reducing the problems of low birth weight

**Method:** Study area is Yala province. All mothers who give birth to babies at the MCH Region 9, the provincial hospital and district hospital in Yala will be the study population

**Results/interim results:**

**Significance of the study:** Provide information for policy guidance in taking steps to the reduction of the problem of low birth weight babies

**Publications, if any:**

**Source and quantum of funds:** US $8 745.-

**Any other information of relevance:**
6. **Title of the project**: Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight

**Country**: Burma

**Name and address of the Institution**: Institute of Medicine-I, Paediatric Department, Rangoon

**Principal Investigator**: Professor U Tin U, Professor of Paediatrics

**Starting date and duration**: January 1977 - 3 years

**Problem and aim of the research study**

a) To study the natural history of pregnancy and its outcome in one or more rural areas and one or more urban areas connected with a medical school.

b) To study in depth the problem of perinatal mortality, and low birth weight in one or more teaching hospitals connected with a medical school

**Method**: Prospective study

**Results/interim results**: Data being analysed.

**Significance of the study**: To obtain accurate and scientific information based on community and hospital studies on the outcome of pregnancy, and the extent of the problem of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Based on these findings to develop intervention strategies for the reduction of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in these countries.

**Publications, if any**: Under preparation

**Source and quantum of funds**

ICP MCH 010 / ICP MCH 011
US $ 24 000.

**Any other information of relevance**: Relevant preliminary data from Burma are being utilized for the preparation of the protocol on the study on the Application of Risk strategies in Maternal and Child Care in Primary Health Care.
Title of the project: Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight

Country: Indonesia

Name and address of the Institution: University of Padjadjaran, Paediatric Department, Medical College, Bandung

Principal Investigator: Dr Anna Alisjakbana, Paediatrician, Department of Child Health

Starting date and duration: January 1977 - 3 years

Problem and aim of the research study:

a) To study the maternal history of pregnancy and its outcome in one or more rural areas and one or more urban areas connected with a medical school.

b) To study in depth the problem of perinatal mortality and low birth weight in one or more teaching hospitals connected with a medical school.

Method: Prospective study

Results/interim results: Data being analysed

Significance of the study: To obtain accurate and scientific information based on community and hospital studies on the outcome of pregnancy, and the extent of the problem of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Based on these findings to develop intervention strategies for the reduction of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in these countries.


Source and quantum of funds: ICP MCH 010 / ICP MCH 011 / INO MCH 003

US $ 35,000.
8. **Title of the project**: Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight  

**Country**: India  

**Name and address of the Institution**: B.J. Medical College, Preventive and Social Department, Pune  

**Principal Investigator**: Prof. Usha Shah, Professor of Preventive and Social Medicine.  

**Starting date and duration**: January 1977 - 3 years  

**Problem and aim of the research study**:  
- a) To study the natural history of pregnancy and its outcome in one or more rural areas and one or more urban areas connected with a medical school.  
- b) To study in depth the problem of perinatal mortality, and low birth weight in one or more teaching hospitals connected with a medical school.  

**Method**: Prospective study  

**Results/interim results**: Data being analysed  

**Significance of the study**: To obtain accurate and scientific information based on community and hospital studies on the outcome of pregnancy, and the extent of the problem of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Based on these findings to develop intervention strategies for the reduction of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in these countries.  

**Publications, if any**: Under preparation.  

**Source and quantum of funds**: US $ 24 000.-(ICP MCH 010 / ICP MCH 011)  

**Any other information of relevance**: Relevant preliminary data from India are being utilized for the preparation of the protocol on the study on the Application of Risk strategies in Maternal and Child Care in Primary Health Care.
9. **Title of the project**: Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight

**Country**: Sri Lanka

**Name and address of the Institution**: University of Sri Lanka, Paediatric Department, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo.

**Principal Investigator**: Dr J. Nanayakara, Associate Professor in Paediatrics.

**Starting date and duration**: January 1977 - 3 years

**Problem and aim of the research study**:

- a) To study the history of pregnancy and its outcome in one or more rural areas and one or more urban areas connected with a medical school.
- b) To study in depth the problem of perinatal mortality, and low birth weight in one or more teaching hospitals connected with a medical school.

**Method**: Prospective study

**Results/interim results**: Data being analysed

**Significance of the study**:

To obtain accurate and scientific information based on community and hospital studies on the outcome of pregnancy, and the extent of the problem of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Based on these findings to develop intervention strategies for the reduction of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in these countries.

**Publications, if any**: Under preparation

**Source and quantum of funds**: ICF MCH O10 / ICF MCH O11

US $ 12 000.

**Any other information of relevance** :
10. **Title of the project**: Outcome of Pregnancy including Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity and Low Birth Weight

**Country**: Thailand

**Name and address of the Institution**: Mahidol University, Obstetric and Gynaecology Department, Medical College, Bangkok

**Principal Investigator**: Dr Vilai Benchaken, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Starting date and duration**: January 1977 - 3 years.

**Problem and aim of the research study**:

- a) To study the natural history of pregnancy and its outcome in one or more rural areas and one or more urban areas connected with a medical school.
- b) To study in depth the problem of perinatal mortality and low birth weight in one or more teaching hospitals connected with a medical school.

**Method**: Prospective study

**Results/interim results**: Data being analysed

**Significance of the study**:

To obtain accurate and scientific information based on community and hospital studies on the outcome of pregnancy, and the extent of the problem of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Based on these findings to develop intervention strategies for the reduction of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in these countries.

**Publications, if any**: Under preparation.

**Source and quantum of funds**: ICP MCH 010 / ICP MCH 011

US $ 52 319.-

**Any other information of relevance**: Relevant preliminary data from Thailand are being utilized for the preparation of the protocol on the study on the Application of Risk strategies in Maternal and Child Care in Primary Health Care.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. Title</th>
<th>STRENGTHENING OF BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME IN URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THAILAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Department of Communicable Diseases Control Ministry of Public Health Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>to be decided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting date</td>
<td>mid - 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and duration</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem and aim</td>
<td>The expanded immunization programmes in countries of SEAR face the problem of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the research</td>
<td>large dropout in the number of children who receive the second and the third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>study</td>
<td>dose of DPT and polio immunizations, as compared to the number of children who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>received the first dose. In this way the effectiveness of this immunization is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>greatly decreased. The problem originates in non satisfactory community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>participation in the implementation of Expanded Programme on Immunization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The proposed study would aim at maintaining close contact between parents and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>children, and health services; and to inform parents about the importance of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>immunization and about services available to their children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method</td>
<td>Birth Certificates with the detailed immunization schedule will be sent to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>parents after the delivery of their children. Parents will be periodically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>contacted and encouraged to immunize their children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results expected</td>
<td>It is expected to obtain better immunization coverage in the selected programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>area, and to reduce the vaccination dropout rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance of</td>
<td>If immunization coverage could be increased in this study, the epidemiological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the study</td>
<td>effects of EPI could be greatly improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source and</td>
<td>Estimated cost : 31 000 $ (in 1980-1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quantum of funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. Title : Study on the Financial Aspects of the Health Delivery System in Bangladesh

Country : Bangladesh

Name and Address of Institution : Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Motijheel Commercial Area, Dacca 2.

Principal Investigator : Dr. Manowar Hossain

Starting date and duration : March 1979, duration: one year

Problem and aim of the research study : The study aims to give an overview of the health care delivery system and its financial aspects for Bangladesh. All health technologies and organizations are to be included and all methods of financing identified.

Method : Information is to be obtained from:

(a) published literature and agency reports;
(b) unpublished documents;
(c) interviews and field visits especially at the district level.

A conceptual framework is to be designed for presenting the documented findings.

Results expected : Draft document under preparation.

Significance of the study : Results not received

Publications : None received as yet.

Source/quantum of funds : $ 10 000,- from ICP RPD 002/HSR

Other information : None
APPENDIX A

13. Title : Sri Lanka Health Sector Commodity Requirement and Expenditure Flows

Country : Sri Lanka

Name and Address of Institution : National Planning Division, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Principal Investigator : Mrs P. Alailiama

Starting date and duration : Scheduled to start November 1979, and continue for eight months.

Problem and aim of the research study : The problem addressed is the inadequate knowledge of the economic relationships which exist between the health sector and the rest of the economy. It is intended that the study: (1) help define the role of the private sector in the provision of health care, (2) determine the actual & potential contribution of the pharmaceutical industry, (3) determine the fiscal incidence on the health sector, (4) provide data that will help policy makers make choices among alternative health technologies and how to place emphasis on each.

The specific objective of the study is to further develop an existing commodity technology profile within the health sector, and to identify the inter dependencies which health expenditures have with the rest of the economy.

Method : The structure of the health sector will be developed in detail. Statistics on expenditure, facilities and performance will be used along with 45 sector input tables. The I-O matrices will allow the profile of the health sector to be identified. The study will also identify the most significant flows between health and other programmes.

Data will be collected through a survey of private nursing homes. In addition, data will be obtained from annual surveys of industrial production, custom returns, inland revenue returns, expenditure surveys, and Ministry of Health expenditure data. The data will be analysed through input-output statistical techniques and a report produced.

Results : Survey of nursing homes has been undertaken.

Significance of the study : Potentially great, but depends upon the manner it is carried out.

Publications : None received as yet.

Source/quantum of Funds : $ 5 000. - approved in principle from ICP RPD 002.

Other information : Finalization of the agreement is pending revision of study cost estimates.
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

SOUTH-EAST ASIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

SEA/ACMR/6/10

Sixth Session, New Delhi, India
1 - 4 April 1980

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH - ANNEXES I TO III
Health services research has identified health behaviour, health education and community participation as a specific area requiring research. Besides this, the RACMR and various health service research groups have recognised the need for and areas for such research. Through the services of consultants and staff of SEARO, these recommendations have been studied. An analysis of these shows that these recommendations meet the criteria for priority consideration set by SEAR and that there are overlapping areas of interest. From the behavioural science, health education and community participation point of view, the research areas identified by the above groups can be grouped under the following:

1. Behavioural Science Research which will provide further insight and understanding of the social, cultural and psychological aspects of the community to enable more comprehensive planning for the integrated development of public health programme which are acceptable to the community.

2. Problems related to the effective planning and implementation of health education in public health programmes leading to lack of community participation both in the planning and utilization of public health programme.

3. Problems related to the development of appropriate training programmes for medical and health workers (including health educators) to enable them to better understand determinants of health behaviour of the community so that suitable health education activities could be carried out to promote community participation;
4. Communication problems related to training of health workers and between health workers and the community (this includes the development and utilisation of mass communication and educational methodologies);

5. Problems related to the acceptability of new technologies or alternative strategies for delivery of health services (including use of VHW and traditional medical practitioners, weaning foods, new sanitary facilities, the community perception of new technologies and services);

6. Evaluation of the health education and community participation efforts (planning process, training programme and delivery system) to monitor its effectiveness.

In view of the above problems the present priority is to define the problems faced in carrying out research in health behaviour, health education and community participation. To achieve this three short-term consultants were recruited to review the existing situation and reports of two of them are available. The recommendations of these consultants have been taken into consideration in this report.

The health education unit has been actively supporting on-going research programmes carried out by SEARO on diarrhoeal diseases, environmental sanitation programme and health services research. Besides it has collaborated with WHO/HQ in the implementation of the following research projects:
Annex I

a) Study on Development Courses in Health Education in India to meet job requirements in health education with particular reference to family planning (India);

b) Factors in adoption of Health and Family Planning Practices Among Hospital Patients (India);

c) A Study to Determine the Effectiveness of Health Education by Volunteers in Family Health Education Programme (Sri Lanka);

d) An Experimental Study of the Impact of Age and Sex of Leaders on the Implementation of Health Programmes: Nakorn Rachasima Province, Thailand (Thailand).

The progress made and the preliminary results are given on pages 6 to 9.

The problem faced in behavioural science, health education and community participation research is shown by the model below which establishes the linkage between the key elements of information, policy, practice, training and research.

Research to be meaningful and to have immediate application must be guided by the problems faced during the implementation of health education programmes (practice). This, in turn, depends upon policy and training. The priority for strengthening the linkages would be to strengthen research aspects of practice and training simultaneously. This would enable the effective implementation of health education programmes leading to community participation and also give direction for further research to be carried out in problem areas.

Based on the outcome of consultations with Governments and taking
into consideration the interest shown by regional ACMR and various
research study groups, the Regional Office is developing a comprehensive
programme to initiate research action to meet the requirements.

The proposed programme which is currently being discussed in
the Regional Office has the following objectives:

1) To collaborate with member countries in the promotion and
development of research in health behaviour, health education and
community participation including institution building;

2) To strengthen training in the field of behavioural science
and health education for medical and health workers (including post-
graduate course in health education) for both service and research
workers;

3) In the spirit of TCDC to foster exchange of experiences and
maximum utilization of existing knowledge and resources for research

4) To promote and develop a mechanism for better communication
system research and service worker to enable utilization of research
findings by programme directors;

5) Development of regional and national bibliographies and
monographs to disseminate among member countries.

6) To develop appropriate research methodologies to enable
implementation of research with the limited capability that exist now.

To achieve the above objectives and in particular to lend
support to programme leading to Health For All by the Year 2000 through
the Primary Health Care approach which necessarily entails the
involvement and participation of the community through health education,
the following proposals are made:
1) **Short-term**

   a) To promote research in behavioural science, health education and community participation among top-level decision makers in service, training and research institutions;

   b) To conduct intercountry consultative group meeting to identify priority areas for research and develop research protocols for immediate implementation;

   c) To conduct workshops to develop appropriate research methodologies for behavioural science, health education, community participation research;

   d) To conduct training programmes for research workers to upgrade their research capability;

   e) To conduct consultative meeting among heads of training institutions and key trainers from training institutions offering post-graduate course in health education to make these training programmes more relevant to health programme requirements.

2) **Long-term**

   a) Continued promotion of behavioural science, health education, community participation, to key administrators in both service, training and research institutions;

   b) To strengthen few existing National Institutions to make them centres of excellence for quality research in behavioural science, health education and community participation and thereby also strengthening training programmes for health professionals and health education specialists;

   c) To collaborate with member countries in conducting operational research into ongoing educational and community participation programmes;

   d) To promote school health programmes;

   e) To support member countries conducting research in behavioural science, health education and community participation in priority areas;

   f) To collaborate with research workers in other priority programmes to enable effective planning and implementation of health education and community participation components of public health programmes.

   A further paper including a summary of research proposals made by the different Health Service Study Groups has been prepared for discussion in SEARO and is available for perusal.
1. **Name of the Project**: Study on Development Courses in Health Education in India to meet Job Requirements in Health Education with Particular Reference to Family Planning.

2. **Country**: India

3. **Name and address of the Institution**: Central Health Education Bureau
   Directorate-General of Health Services
   Kotla Road, Temple Lane, New Delhi-2

4. **Principal Investigator**: Dr. S.K. Sandhu, Director

5. **Starting data and duration**: 1974

6. **Problem and aim of the research study**

   In 1971 there were 490 students graduating from the three institutions offering post-graduate courses in health education. They are now working in various departments throughout the country and little information is available on the relevance of their training to their job requirements.

   The project intends to analyse the job performance versus the preparation given in the Institutions in order to improve the curriculum, so that the graduates would be in a better position to perform the health education role in priority health problems, especially in maternal child health, with particular reference to family planning.

7. **Method**

   Questionnaire and interview methods was used on a group of randomly selected health educators and responses obtained. This was followed by in-depth interview of health educators themselves plus health administrators employing them. Findings are analysed with reference to job descriptions and the curricula offerings they have received. Statistical methods applied.

8. **Results/interim results**

   Interim results indicate that the curriculum for the training of health educators is in some cases not geared to the performance of their job functions and some of the jobs performed are not technically educational.

9. **Significance of the study**

   This study will give the directions in which changes may have to be made to the curriculum of post-graduate course in health education to enable the health educators to play a more effective role in supporting health education components of public health programmes. The results are being utilised to reorientate and modify the curriculum.

10. **Publications, if any**

11. **Source and quantum of funds**

    WHO HQ $16 200

12. **Any other information of relevance.**
1. **Title of the Project:** A study to Determine the Effectiveness of Health Education by Volunteers in Family Health Education Programme.

2. **Country:** Sri Lanka

3. **Name and address of the institution:** Health Education Bureau Ministry of Health, Colombo

4. **Principal Investigator:** Dr. T. Munasinghe, Assistant Director (Health Edu.)

5. **Starting date and duration:** 1976 continuing

6. **Problem and aim of the research study**

   The volunteers are used extensively in various development works in Sri Lanka. These volunteers are mostly out of school village youths, usually confined to a definite period of time in assisting various field staff to achieve objectives in development programmes. Their work has, however, seldom been evaluated for the purpose of further utilization.

   The project intends to:

   (i) Determine the effectiveness of volunteers in family health education;

   (ii) Finding the efficacy of training inputs of volunteers in implementation of health programmes;

   (iii) Compare the results of work of volunteers (with some backstopping from public health midwives) and the work of public health midwives alone in similar villages;

   (iv) Explore in what ways the services of a volunteer in promoting health and family planning could be more useful.

7. **Method**

   The project is an experimental one. It has a set of experimental villages and two sets of control villages, the total of which amounts to 35 villages with 7,000 households. Each village has approximately 150-200 houses.

   There are two phases. In the first phase, by questionnaire and direct observation, a baseline has already been established. At the end of experimental phase, the results will be analysed with reference to the baseline established. Prior to the experimentation, voluntary health workers have been trained by the Health Education Bureau and health education activities supported.

8. **Results/interim results:** Research in progress

9. **Significance of the study**

   This study would throw some insight into the proper utilization of voluntary health workers to enable implementation of primary health care.

10. **Publications, if any**

11. **Source and quantum of funds:** WHO HQ: $12,500

12. **Any other information of relevance**
Title of the Project: An Experimental Study of the Impact of Age and Sex of Leaders on the Implementation of Health Programmes: Nakorn Rachasima Province, Thailand.

Country: Thailand

Name and Address of the Institution: Department of Health Promotion, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok

Principal Investigator: Dr. Amorn Nondasuta

Starting date and duration: 1974 Continuing

Problem and aim of the research study:

Health Services are being provided to the community but little attention has been given to encouraging public participation in health matters.

The project intends to study the impact of public participation in environmental health, MCH and especially family planning by involving two types of leadership, the old and traditional versus the emerging youth in diffusions of health practices and comparing the results of the two approaches, shown on samples, for wider utilization. The study intends to enquire whether age and/or sex of leaders makes any differences in the type of innovation they are encouraging the villagers to adopt.

Method:

This is a longitudinal experimental study designed to test the hypothesis that the effectiveness of young leaders is greater than that of the traditional leaders in influencing the implementation of health activities in the context of primary health care. The study population consists of 16 homogenous areas where the different effectiveness of the two groups is compared. In each case there is a randomly selected sample. Survey, questionnaire and in-depth methods are used.

Results/interim results:

The study is in progress and an interim report is being prepared.

Significance of the Study:

This study would enable establishment of some criteria for the selection of voluntary health workers for primary health care.

Publications, if any:

Source and quantum of funds: WHO HQ $16,550

Any other information of relevance:

Final stages: statistical work and report writing.
Annex I

1. Name of the Project: Study of the Factors Influencing Adoption of Practices Relating to Health Aspects of Family Planning by the Hospital Patients/Relatives, Phase II

2. Country: India

3. Name and address of the Institution: National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Mehrauli Road, Munirka, New Delhi-110067

4. Principal Investigator: Dr (Mrs) K.G. Rao, Professor of Social Science

5. Starting date and duration: 1971

6. Problem and aim of the research study

   Research carried out on diagnostic phase:

   (a) to ascertain the extent of understanding of the information given and intention to practise;

   (b) to ascertain factors influencing the understanding and practice as perceived by patients.

   Project intends to:

   (a) identify the factors influencing the understanding and practices prescribed in a hospital setting;

   (b) study the key factors at depth;

   (c) establish, by carrying out appropriate educational measures, the factors amenable for manipulation; and

   (d) analyse and interpret data and write the Final Report.

7. Method

   This is an exploratory study using pre and post interview techniques among matched and randomly selected groups consisting of one experimental and three control groups. The experimental group was subject to health education inputs on immunization consisting of group discussions in hospitals followed by mailing of booklets and reminders. There were about 100 people in each group.

8. Results

   The research project is completed and the report is in the final stages of completion. The study indicates that the experimental group had greater knowledge and understanding of immunisation and significantly higher rate of completion of immunization schedules compared to the three control groups. Another important finding was that the experimental group acted as change agent in the community.

9. Significance of the study

   Hospitals could be used for health education purposes to promote community participation in immunization programmes. Group educational activities together with mailing of literature to patients are effective approaches in health education.

10. Publications, if any...

11. Sources and quantum of funds: WHO HQ $30 425

12. Any other information of relevance...
Aspects of Health Manpower Development forms an integral part of Health Services Research, and has been recognized as an essential need by the Health Services Research Study Groups that met. A special research study group has looked into this problem and has recommended several research areas which would be of interest to countries in this Region. The member governments have been informed of the research areas suggested by the scientific group.

In order to stimulate the development of research protocols and to obtain first hand information on specific interests of countries a Consultant is currently visiting several countries in this Region. As per his interim findings, governments of the countries the Consultant has visited (Indonesia and Thailand) have expressed interest on the following studies as being of relevance to their programmes:

**INDONESIA**

1. Research on identification of factors that will facilitate and motivate CHVs to undertake continued work in rural areas specially the selection procedure and the reward system.

2. Studies on the current interactions among CHVs and health workers specially with regard to (a) supervision, (b) authority relationships and (c) role perceptions would promote effective functioning.

3. Development of an appropriate evaluation system for training programmes, specifically to evaluate the curricula and the effectiveness of teaching methodology in achieving the educational objectives.

**THAILAND**

1. Study of different strategies for change in educational programmes. Several such studies are suggested under this broad research category:

   1.1 Cost of conventional and reoriented training methods.

   1.2 Evaluation of the product undergoing different teaching modules.

2. Research on development of optimal measurements for attitudes, aptitudes and selection procedure for students, especially those from the rural areas.

3. Research on development of instruments to evaluate the clinical performance of students.

4. Research on inter-relation between the health workers and CHVs.
Annex II

5. In view of the fact that several alternative approaches are being considered for PHC provision, research to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the training programmes and also its impact on health status of the community is necessary.

The reaction of the Governments of Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka would be obtained by the Consultant in due course, and the Regional Office will initiate action to promote studies on the areas that are of priority concern to member countries.
APPRIOPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH

SEARO hosted the Inter-Regional Consultation on ATH in December 1977 in which a medium-term programme was developed which gave the highest priority to developing or adapting appropriate technology for PHC.

The Regional Meeting on PHC was held in November 1977 as well as the Research Study Group on Alternative Strategies for the Delivery of Health Care gave priority to this programme. An inventory of institutions in countries of the Region was compiled. The technical discussion in the 4th Meeting of Regional ACMR was on "Research in the development of appropriate technology for improvement of environmental health at the village level". This was followed by convening a consultative research study group on the subject which was held in SEARO in October 1978.

The technical discussions in the WPC Meeting in November 1978 was on the topic ATH. An inter-regional consultation on Oral Rehydration Salt Production was hosted in SEARO. Assistance was provided in organizing a national workshop on ATH in Thailand in 1979.

Despite the above efforts there is a recognition of the fact that the concept of ATH needs promotion in the countries of the Region inasmuch as it promotes local initiative, self-reliance and builds up a capability at all levels in the solution of health and related problems, thus reducing the need for reliance on imported technologies. In this regard, countries are being requested to promote national workshops to identify the existing appropriate
technologies and the need for ATH in the priority areas, and to formulate focal groups. It is proposed to organize a regional meeting in ATH in October 1980 and an inter-regional meeting in early 1981. In connection with latter, a multi country case-study involving Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand duly supported by HQ has been initiated.

The study proposes to deal with:

**Situational analysis:** listing of health problems based on country profiles, CHP or other planning processes

- defining priority concerns within the country or different levels of services

- assessment of the local epidemiological conditions

**Inventory:**

- identification of the technology presently used for solving the health problems

- identification of available manpower and its qualifications

- identification of information on alternative techniques available in the country for each specific problem

- assessment of the value of the identified technologies

- assessment of potential availability of raw materials, local production, need for part or total transfer of technology (TCDC/industrial countries, etc.) existence of workshops for maintenance and repair, channels of distribution, storage capabilities, packaging capabilities when needed

- study of potentials of existing network of institutions for research and information

**Activities:**

- listing of tasks to be performed in view of solving the health problems focussing on the peripheral level of service

- definition of the qualifications of the manpower required to carry out the tasks
- identification of equipment supplies and drugs including biologicals to be used by the manpower in charge

- costing of equipment, supplies and drugs to be delivered on request permanently according to need.

The study design is currently being refined.