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TWENTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Technical discussions

TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION

The measures taken in most countries to control sexually transmitted diseases have rarely enabled their spread to be halted.

To-day they constitute a serious health problem for the individual and the community.

What are the main obstacles encountered and what better approach might be devised in order to overcome them? What should be the priority objectives and the activities to be developed so as to attain them?

1. Prevention of sexually transmitted diseases

(a) Many economic, psycho-social, behavioural and medical factors are conducive to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and in particular are responsible for the emergence of high-risk groups.

Which of these factors are the ones we can influence, and by what means, in order to ensure more effective prevention of sexually transmitted diseases?

(b) Health education is recognized to be one of the key factors in control of sexually transmitted diseases.

What should be its objectives, methods and procedures, and how might its results be assessed?

To what sectors should it be applied - e.g. the public, the young, patients - and how can the participation of the community be obtained?

What training should be given to those who will be responsible for implementing these health education programmes?

(c) Case finding and treatment, together with contact tracing, are key activities for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

What should be their characteristics and modes of application, not only for the patient but also for asymptomatic cases and in particular for contacts?

2. Organization of the health infrastructure

(a) The organization of the health infrastructure is clearly of prime importance in the control of sexually transmitted diseases.

What should be the role, activities, organization and distribution of responsibilities of:

- a specialized central service?
- the intermediate level health services?
- the peripheral health centres?

(b) How can their coordination and integration into the existing health structures be provided for?

(c) What approach should be adopted to the planning, integration, organization or strengthening of the infrastructure for control of sexually transmitted diseases in countries with low economic and medical potential, starting from the existing health services?

3. Training of medical and medical-care staff

Taking into account the tasks to be accomplished and the priorities decided upon:

- what can be done to plan the educational objectives, the preparation and implementation of programmes for training the various categories of personnel engaged in control of sexually transmitted diseases?
- how can the evaluation of this training be tackled?
- how can refresher training for staff already serving be provided for?

4. International action called for

What forms of action by the international agencies in cooperation with national bodies would be the most useful for bringing about a better approach to the control of sexually transmitted diseases - information, research, training of personnel, advisory services, field projects or some other form of assistance and cooperation?