

HEALTH

An Interdisciplinary Programme

Programme Objectives (Goals):

To examine the determinants of health, including the ethical and social aspects of our living conditions at an introductory level.

Principles & Learning Objectives

The exploration of **Principles** will be based on health situations/scenarios. The achievement of the Specific Learning Objectives identified for each principle is considered to be an indication of the learner's understanding of the relevant principle.

APPRAISAL OF RISKS TO HEALTH - The identification and appraisal of determinant of health and illness and the magnitude of morbidity and mortality in a defined population are essential for the effective maintenance of its health

The learner should be able to illustrate this by using examples which depict the interaction of environmental and internal factors resulting in illness and describe how groups or individuals are identified to be at health risk.

ILLNESS INTERVENTIONS - Illness interventions are specific actions which are intended to alter the natural history of illness; they include preventive, curative, rehabilitative or supportive interventions.

Using examples, the learner should be able to illustrate this principle, and to apply principles of critical appraisal or evidence to differentiate between efficacy (treatment which works in ideal circumstances) and effectiveness (the way treatment actually works).

ETHICS - The consideration of ethical values is essential in the provision of preventive, curative or supportive health care.

Using examples, the learner should be able to describe the interrelationship between the rights of individual patients, the patients' families, the health professionals, the health care system and society.

SOCIALIZATION - The process of socialization *i.e.*, the process of acquiring specific beliefs, values, attitudes and self-concept, through interpersonal transaction in groups, plays a key role in people's understanding of health and health care.

Using examples, the learner should be able to describe: a) the association of disturbances in social group membership with illness and b) how socio-cultural variables determine health practices and attitudes toward health and illness.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT - The process of growth and development results from genetic and environmental influences on cells.

Using examples, the learner should be able to describe both disturbances in embryological development that lead to congenital abnormalities, and tissue vulnerability at various stages of growth and development after birth.

COMMUNICATION - Language is a means for human communication which includes verbal and non-verbal exchange.

Using examples, the learner should be able to describe the development of communication and the maturation of language with age.