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Introduction to Community Dentistry

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WHO(World Health Organization)

Health : “ a state of complete physical ,mental and social wellbeing and merely absence of disease or infirmity”¹

Public health : by Winslow 1920, “ the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts”²

A community is a definite group of people or population having common organization ,living in the same region following same rules and regulations under the same environment.

Dental Public Health

Definition of American Board of Dental Public Health

Dental public health is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is that form of dental practice that serves the community as a patient rather than the individual.³



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It is concerned

- with the dental health education of the public,
- with applied dental research,
- and with the administration of group for the dental care programs,
- as well as the prevention and control of dental diseases on a community basis

Concepts of Health

- Biomedical concept
- Ecological concept
- Psychosocial concept



Biomedical concept

- Absence of diseases
- Inadequate to solve major health problems like (malnutrition, chronic disease, accidents, disease caused by pollution of the country's air and water system)

Ecological concept

- Dynamic equilibrium between man and his environment .
- Disease : maladjustment of the human organism to the environment.

Psychosocial concept

- Health is influenced by social, psychological ,cultural ,and economic, and political factors.

Principles followed in dental public health practices.

- ❖ Public health work is done in areas where group responsibility is recognized .
- ❖ Public health work relies on team effort.
- ❖ Prevention of the diseases is the main goal.(prevention is better than cure).
- ❖ Deals with the research for the cause of the disease .

- ❖ Bio- statistical methods give a comparative analysis of the population seen and form basis for more studies.
- ❖ Public health workers deal with healthy people as well as the sick people.
- ❖ Health education & communication of the local population.
- ❖ Payment of health care made easy.

Tools Of Dental Public Health

- **Epidemiology:** Study of distribution and determinants of health related event in population.
- **Biostatistics** : Is branch of statistics concerned with mathematical facts and data relating to biological events.
- **Social Sciences: Sciences** that include sociology, cultural anthropology, and psychology

- **Principles of administration:** Can be divided into

1. **Organization:** deals with structure of an agency and the way people are arranged into working groups with it.
2. **Management :** Is concerned with the handling of personal and operation in such a way that the work of the agency gets done.

- **Prevention Dentistry:** Procedure employed in the practice of dentistry ,and community dental health's programs which prevent occurrence of oral disease and oral abnormalities.



Levels of Prevention

1.Primary prevention



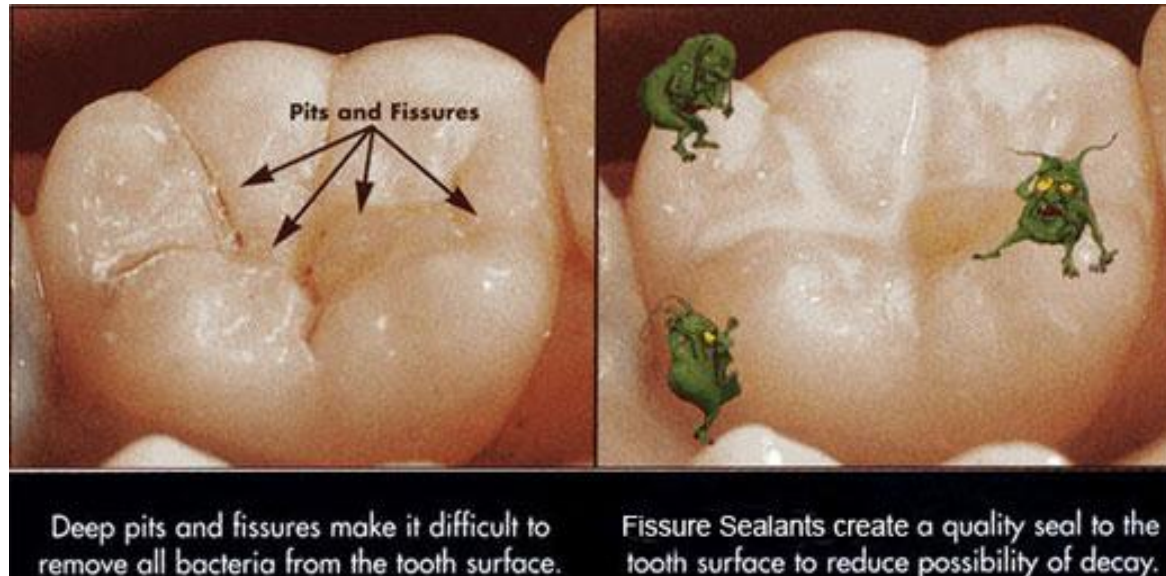
2.Secondary prevention



3.Tertiary prevention

- **Primary prevention** aims to prevent disease or injury before it occurs. This is done by preventing exposures to hazards that cause disease or injury, so this level include **health education**, **disease prevention** , and health protection

(Dental prophylaxis, fissure sealants, and water fluoridation)



- **Secondary prevention** to reduce or eliminate the disease in early stages. This is done by detecting and treating disease or injury as soon as possible. This level requires **more technology** and it is **more costly** than primary prevention .



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- **Tertiary Prevention** aims to limit disability from disease in later stages and requires recovery, and surgical procedure (Dentures, implants, and bridge work are examples).

This level is **most costly** and requires highly **trained professionals** to treat the disease.



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Practical Steps in dental public health

1.Survey

A systematic collection of factual data pertaining to dental or oral health and disease in a human population within a given geographic area.



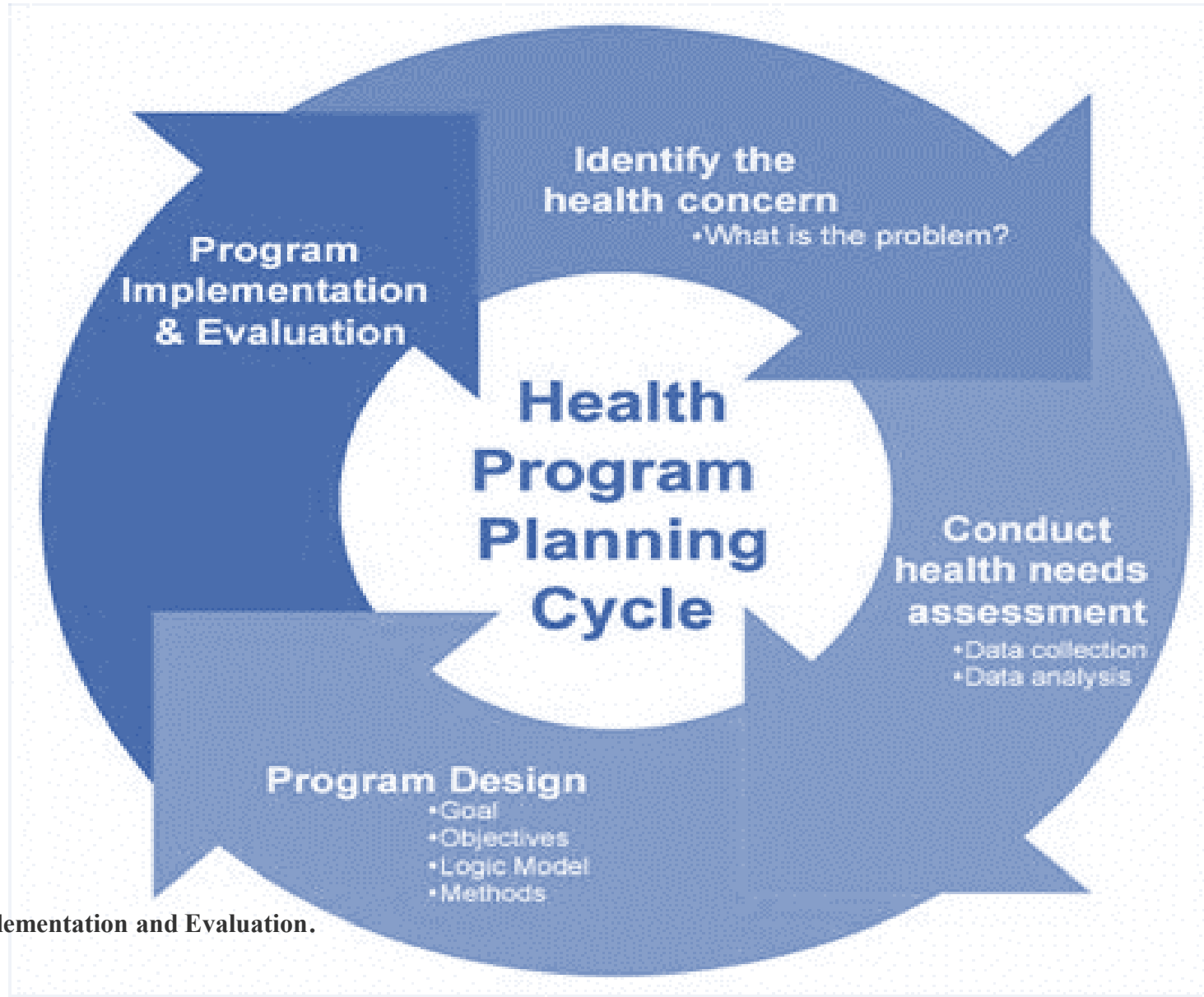
2. Analysis

Means evaluation of the data that were to collected to characterize a specific health problems in the community.



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3. Program planning



Similarities Between Personal & Community Health Care

• Patient

Examination

Diagnosis

Treatment planning

Treatment

Payment for services

Evaluation

• Community

Survey

Analysis

Program planning

Program operation

Finance

Approval



1.Examination /Survey

The patient's dental examination parallels the community survey as a means of assessment of the situation or problem.



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2.Diagnosis/Analysis

It is the procedure of covering the information or raw data collected in the survey by meaningful figures or statistics in order to define the characteristics of specific community health problems.



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3. Treatment planning /Program planning

The treatment plan and the plan for the community are similar; both include many sides of preparation, such as determining various methods, strategies, and cost of choosing a plan that will work best for the patient or community.



4. Treatment/Program operation

Treatment starts according to treatment plans



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- **5. Payment/Program funding**

Payment of the dental services before the treatment plan is started and it can be in the form of cash down or monthly billing.



6.Evaluation/program appraisal.

Final step to observe the effectiveness ,suitability.

References

1. Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva World Health Organization;1946.
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- 4.Elsevier Saunders .Community Oral Health Practice for the Dental Hygienist 3rd edition .San Antonio Texas; 2012.
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