

HEALTH EDUCATION

Background Information

The department of Health Education and Promotion plays a major role in the promotion of health and prevention of diseases. It also contributes towards the early and effective treatment of diseases so as to minimize suffering and disability. In addition, it contributes greatly to the reduction of workload of health care providers as well as reducing cost in providing curative services thus enhancing quality of Health care.

In recognition of this important role, the Kenya government provides services and facilities for training of health educators at various levels. The formal training was started in 1971 as a post basic programme. The training is of vital importance in order to meet the changing health needs of people.

The trained health education and promotion officer services as a change agent in the provision of essential health education services at all levels to improve the quality of life of Kenyan population. The course is designed to provide the health education and promotion officers with the necessary knowledge and skills essential in carrying out their work.

Course content

The course covers the following ten major subjects and tutorials:-

- Principals of Health Education and Promotion
- Communication Theories and Practice
- Introduction to Sociology
- Social Psychology
- Primary Health Care
- Epidemiology
- Research Methods
- Project Development and Management
- Audio Visual Aids development
- Field Research and Practicum

Duration of Course

The duration of the course is one calendar year. Divided into nine months of course work and three months of practicum and field research.

Award. The student are awarded a **Higher Diploma in Health Education and Promotion.**

Minimum Entry Requirement

The course is open to Health staff who have a General Diploma in Health related areas and their functions fit in the elements of primary health care. The holder of such Diploma includes:-

- Clinical Officers
- Nurses
- Public Health Officers
- Occupational Therapist
- Nutrition Technologist

And any other qualification, which is deemed equivalent to the above by the college. The health worker must, have been in active practice for a minimum of three years.

Roles and Function of Health Education and Promotion Officer

Roles

- Planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Health Education activities and programmes
- Mobilization of community resources for health education activities
- Provision of feedback to the facilitation of Health Education intervention strategies
- Training other health workers in health education
- Preparing health education plans of action and appropriate budgets
- Provide technical advice to the D.H.M.T. and other relevant organizations
- Collaboration with other organization on intra and inter-sectoral basis in carrying out I.E.C. activities

Functions

- Formulate relevant health education and promotion objectives for the Districts in line with the National and Provincial health policies,
- Participate actively in all I.C.E. development activities through D.D.C.
- Identify at risk group with a view of addressing the problems through appropriate interventions.

Objectives of Health Education and Promotion of Higher Diploma Program

The health education and promotion diploma programs designed to provide candidates with knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to:-

- Designing, implementing and evaluating appropriate education interventional programs
- Identify, develop and put into use an appropriate and relevant audio-visual aids
- Mobilize communities in planning; implementing and evaluating community bases health programs.

Job Opportunity

The health education officers can work in the following areas:-

- The Government as District Health Education Officers
- In teaching Health Education and promotion in various colleges
- Private practice as Health Education and Promotion Officers
- In organization as consultant in a health promotion
- In N.G.O where their services are in very high demand

Progression

Currently, Health Education can join straight and study for a Masters Degree in International Health and Health promotion in the following universities:-

- Moi University
- Kenyatta University
- Maseno University

The department intends to display materials, which have been developed by students who have passed in the department. This includes:-

- Project writes
- Dissertation
- Booklets
- Ratio tapes
- Message scripts
- Posters
- Flip Charts
- Puppet materials