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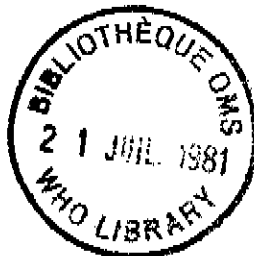


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Evaluation studies

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EVALUATION OF FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

by

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When imparting knowledge and techniques to enable health staff to perform a given activity correctly, it is at the same time essential to teach evaluation methods for monitoring and improving the performance of the activity.

Evaluation concerns all health workers whatever their level in the health system. All basic training programmes for physicians, midwives, nurses, etc., should therefore include instruction in simple evaluation procedures, applicable to family planning work at the operational level.

Knowledge of evaluation methods should enable staff of the services to appraise their work (or an initial situation) and, if necessary, to modify and improve it. The instruction should describe several types of evaluation, so as to enable the future workers to deal with the different problems they face: problems of organization and performance, problems regarding the quality of care, problems relating to the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes. Evaluation - whatever the type - should always be undertaken on the initiative of the workers themselves and be performed by them. Thus, their training must have adequately covered the three essential phases in any evaluation process: choice and definition of subjects to be evaluated, procedures and instruments of evaluation applicable to the different subjects, organization of the phases and procedures on which the success of the evaluation will depend.

Finally, it would be essential to enable the students to define intermediate indicators, allowing them to assess the short-term impact of their work, more or less directly in relation to the programme.