

International Children's Centre

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STUDY ON THE TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING
AT MEDICAL, NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SCHOOLS IN
CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

by

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A survey of the teaching of family planning in university medical faculties and schools of nursing and midwifery was carried out at the gynaecology and obstetrics departments of 19 hospitals in seven European countries.

In these countries, which differed greatly as far as their economic, social and political structures were concerned, the teaching of family planning was also found to differ considerably, both from the general point of view and with regard to each category of personnel, according to the division of responsibilities in this field.

While the concept of "teaching objective" is not clearly spelt out by all, there is some measure of adaptation or of interdependence between the importance attached to teaching and the importance of responsibilities in the field; this applies to each category of personnel.

TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING IN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL FACULTIES

Whereas the theoretical teaching of the purely medical part of family planning (contraception, abortion, sterility) appears to be well ensured in most of the

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countries, the importance attached to other aspects (sexuality, psychology of couples, sociology) varies very much and is most frequently minimal, except in the Netherlands. Practical instruction, i.e. the stages specifically oriented towards family planning, is also very variable, but in most cases remains inadequate or even nonexistent.

TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING IN SCHOOLS OF NURSING

Theoretical teaching in family planning is particularly deficient in all the countries visited. No school of nursing has provision for courses at a family planning centre; on the other hand, public health nurses play an important role in family planning, and their training is especially well adapted in the United Kingdom.

TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING IN SCHOOLS OF MIDWIFERY

Theoretical teaching in family planning, which varies from country to country, corresponds in general to the level of responsibility given to midwives in respect of family planning. The most complete instruction is without doubt that given in Sweden, as regards both the theory and the practical work and courses at family planning centres. This is explained by the fact that midwives assume responsibility for problems of family planning as a whole.