

SUMMARY

This study was undertaken to assess the attitudes, of second and final year students, following the Assistant Medical Practitioner ^(AMP) course at the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara, towards Primary Health Care, during the year 1987. Because the knowledge and skills that they gain during the training would not ensure proper performance unless they develop favourable attitudes to Primary Health Care. This study would also find out the pattern of socio economic and demographic background of the students and to establish the causal relationship, if any, between those social, economical and demographic factors and attitudes to Primary Health Care.

Findings of this study showed that the attitudes to Primary Health Care of the AMP students was not in favour of Primary Health Care. Infact these results were unexpected as those students in the study were trained in a place where a greater amount of Primary Health Care activities were conducted than at the other centres. This may be related to low priority being given in Medical Curriculum to prevention of diseases and the promotion of health, and the neglect of some non Medical Sciences that may be considered the ^Sbasic of Community Medicine such as Sociology and Anthropology.

Neutral attitudes of AMP students to Primary Health Care is likely to have an adverse impact on the Primary Health Care programme in this country.

It was found that the attitudes to Primary Health Care was more favourable among the second year

students than the final year students. Also the female students showed more favourable attitudes to Primary Health Care than the male students. The majority of the students were young unmarried female, who were Sinhalese Buddhists. Nearly half of the students were from rural areas. When their schooling was considered, most of them had their education from urban schools.