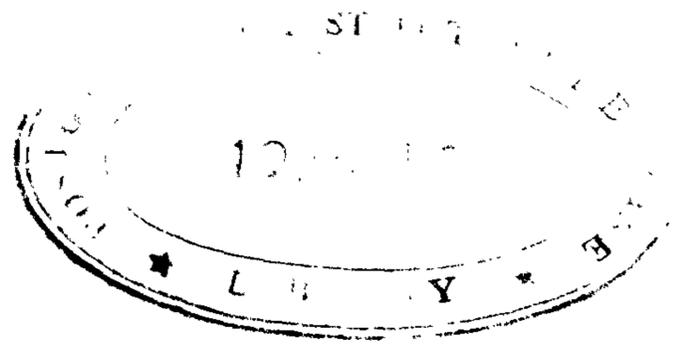


A B S T R A C T (SUMMARY)

Summary

A study was undertaken to:-

- (a) Identity predominant characteristics and activities of a group of voluntary health workers.
- (b) Study the impact of activities of a Primary Health Care development Project.

A self administered questionnaire was used for the first part of the study. (pertaining to voluntary health workers) An interviewer administered questionnaire was used for the second part.

Most of the voluntary health workers were young, educated girls. A desire to serve their community had prompted them to undertake voluntary health work. Each worker was assigned to look after about twenty five houses. A variety of health activities have been performed by them. Of these, information, education and communication activities took pride of place. Most of them visited the households assigned to them fortnightly. Although dropouts of voluntary health workers were frequent, replacements were easily found.

The impact of the activities of the health development project was assessed by a knowledge, attitude and practice study, on a sample of households. The mothers of the project area were more inclined to seek the help of Primary Health Care Workers in problem situations. Significant improvements were observed in two and a half years of health development activities in the project area. The improvements were in the following areas : practice of family planning, use of safe water, building and use of sanitary latrines. Primary health care workers paid more domiciliary visits in the project area. However, the study was not designed to find out whether observed differences in knowledge attitude and practice was due to efforts of voluntary health workers.