

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20523  
BIBLIOGRAPHIC INPUT SHEET

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Batch 85

|                           |  |                |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION | A. PRIMARY<br>Health                                       | NG00-0000-G344 |
|                           | B. SECONDARY<br>Health education and manpower--West Indies |                |

2. TITLE AND SUBTITLE  
The development of graduate studies for health education in family planning at the University of the West Indies

3. AUTHOR(S)

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|                          |                            |                                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4. DOCUMENT DATE<br>1975 | 5. NUMBER OF PAGES<br>120. | 6. ARC NUMBER<br>ARC LAT613.943.C592 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|

7. REFERENCE ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS

APHA

8. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES (Sponsoring Organization, Publishers, Availability)

9. ABSTRACT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. CONTROL NUMBER<br>PN-AAF-632  | 11. PRICE OF DOCUMENT                     |
| 12. DESCRIPTORS<br>Education, higher<br>Family planning<br>Health education<br>Personnel development<br>West Indies | 13. PROJECT NUMBER                        |
|   | 14. CONTRACT NUMBER<br>AID/pha-C-1100 GTS |
|   | 15. TYPE OF DOCUMENT                      |

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
FOR HEALTH EDUCATION IN FAMILY  
PLANNING AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

A Report Prepared By:

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During The Period:

SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 1975

Under The Auspices Of:

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

In Agreement With The:

U. S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORIZATION:  
AID/pha/C-1100  
Ltr. PHA/POP 9/18/75  
APHA Assgn No. 1100-013

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRADUATE STUDIES FOR  
HEALTH EDUCATION IN FAMILY PLANNING  
AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

I. INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (DSPM) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), the American Public Health Association (APHA) provided a short-term consultant in health education from September 28 through November 7, 1975. This consultant service was made available as a part of the U. S. Agency for International Development Office of Population continuing help given over the years to the development of the country's health education manpower. The purpose of this assignment was to work with Mrs. Ivy McGhie, Health Education Specialist, serving as Acting Director of the Family Planning/Epidemiology Unit of the DSPM, in the development of graduate studies in the area of health education for family planning.

The Diploma Course in Community Health with specialization in health education was initiated in January, 1975, and the faculty that provide this specialization in the Family Planning/Epidemiology Unit of the DSPM are now located in adequate facilities which were officially opened November 6, 1975. These events are the fruition of long efforts by members of the DSPM, the UWI, and a number of consultants. An accounting of the steps taken to accomplish these two events will not be repeated here, as reports of the past two USAID Population Officers, Mr. Wilbur Wallace and Mr. Alton Wilson and those of APHA consultant Mary Jo Kraft provide the background for these developments.

II. SITUATION AND BACKGROUND

The Family Planning/Epidemiology Unit (FP/E Unit) responsibilities are in three areas: teaching, research, and service. The geographic scope of the Unit's interest, being within the UWI, extends throughout the Caribbean area.

A. Teaching

In the 1975 Diploma Course three students, all from Jamaica, were admitted for specialization in health education. They are employees of the Bureau of Health Education and began their health education work in 1968 as Family Planning Education Officers with the National Family Planning Board. They will be followed, during the coming years, by others among the 45 field officers of the Bureau who qualify for admission.

In the 1976 class the full limit of ten students in the health education specialization have been admitted. Four of

these are Jamaicans employed by the Bureau and six are persons from other countries in the Caribbean.

Admission to the Diploma in Community Health course for general study or specialization in health planning, health services administration, hospital administration or health education requires applicants to have graduated from an approved university. In lieu of such a degree, applicants may be admitted who have a technical or professional qualification from an approved body or other qualification of special relevance to the course and have at least five years of related practical experience.

The Diploma Course of study is twelve months in length presented in four ten-week terms. The third term is devoted to field work experience in an approved health agency placement. During this period the student is also expected to gather data for a dissertation that is prepared with the guidance of a faculty advisor for presentation in mid November. Upon successful completion of the twelve-month programme, students specializing in health education enter a six-month internship under an approved preceptor.

The Diploma Course in Community Health is structured in association with the Diploma Course in Public Health, so candidates in both programmes take all Core Courses together and a number of the Required Courses. In those courses selected as electives, there is also a mixture of disciplines. This makes for a challenging teaching climate and provides the opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion and activity essential for the development of the team concept.

For the 1975 and 1976 academic years the Family Planning/Epidemiology Unit has been given responsibility for the courses as indicated in Table 1.

In addition to teaching responsibilities in the Diploma programme, Mrs. McGhie provides the community health education input, presently limited to three hours, to each of the medical student groups during their preventive medicine clinical experience. She also provides the community health education input in the nurses training programme. She feels that consultant assistance is needed to determine how this content can be expanded in the curricula.

#### B. Research

The FP/E Unit has been conducting studies and surveys in the area of family planning directed by Dr. Smith. Examples of reports produced, which highlight health education needs, are: "A Study of Patient Counseling in Corporate Area Family Planning Clinics, " (1973), "A Study of the Family Planning Needs of

TABLE 1.  
 FAMILY PLANNING/EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT  
 COURSES AND COURSE HOURS  
 1975 and 1976

| COURSE TITLE   | 1975 TERMS/HOURS |               |               | 1976 TERMS/HOURS |               |               |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | I                | II            | IV            | I                | II            | IV            |
| <u>Core Courses</u>                                      |                  |               |               |                  |               |               |
| 106 Psychology   | 20               |               |               | 20               |               |               |
| 109 Introduction to Epidemiology                         | 10               |               |               |                  |               |               |
| 110 Principle of Epidemiology                            | 30               |               |               | 40               |               |               |
| 112 Data Processing and<br>Research Methodology          | 10               | 10            |               | 20               | 10            |               |
| 114 Health Education                                     |                  | 20            |               |                  | 20            |               |
|  | <u>      </u>    | <u>      </u> |               | <u>      </u>    | <u>      </u> |               |
| SUBTOTAL   | 70               | 30            |               | 80               | 30            |               |
| <u>Required Courses</u>                                  |                  |               |               |                  |               |               |
| 207 Population Dynamics and<br>Family Planning           |                  |               | 30            |                  |               | 30            |
| 302 Communications-Principles,<br>Techniques, Skills     |                  | 20            | 25            | 20               | 20            |               |
| 305 Community Organization                               |                  | 30            |               | 40               |               |               |
| 306 Group Dynamics                                       |                  | 30            |               | 20               |               |               |
| 313 School Health  |                  |               | 20            |                  |               | 20            |
| 314 Health Education, Theory,<br>Principles and Practice | 10               | 30            | 50            | 10               | 30            | 50            |
|  | <u>      </u>    | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>    | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |
| SUBTOTAL   | 10               | 110           | 125           | 10               | 110           | 120           |
| GRAND TOTAL  | 80               | 140           | 125           | 90               | 140           | 120           |

University Students on the University of the West Indies .  
Mona Campus" (1974). A KAP study in family planning,  
conducted in Guyana, is presently being analyzed.

Three very interesting studies, directed by Mrs. McGhie,  
concerning what adults know, believe or do about illness  
in young children, places for educational input in the out-  
patient clinic setting, and comparison of educational  
methods used in the clinic setting have been reported on  
but are not yet published.

The National Family Planning Board has asked the Acting  
Director, during 1976, to undertake a study of attitudes  
of teachers and students regarding family life education in  
light of the increasing educational activity in schools  
across the country.

#### C. Community Service

Mrs. McGhie has responded to a wide variety of service  
requests. Examples drawn from 1975 activities are:

1. consultation and assistance in the design and  
conduct of an experimental training model for  
preparing teachers in the Highgate area to  
handle Family Life Education classes;
2. input in the in-service training programme of  
the Bureau of Health Education;
3. a paper prepared for the Technical Advisory  
Group meeting on MCH services in Antigua  
entitled "Community Participation and Education  
in MCH Services";
4. co-direction with PAHO of a three-week Seminar  
on Management of Family Planning/MCH Programme  
held at the UWI for 32 participants from 13  
countries in the Caribbean including seven  
persons from Jamaica.

The National Family Planning Board has requested Mrs.  
McGhie to expand the Highgate area teacher training model,  
during 1976, to the other parts of the Island. Additionally,  
they have requested that the FP/E Unit develop several  
training modules in the area of communications in family  
planning and maternal and child health.

Staffing. At the time of the consultant's visit the Family  
Planning/Epidemiology Unit had the following staff. Acting

Director, Unit Administrator, Research Fellow, two Research Assistants, Librarian, two Secretaries, Printer, Audio-visual Technician and two building maintenance persons.

Four positions in the FP/E Unit were not filled. Two of these positions are critical for carrying out the teaching and service commitments of the Unit. The Health Education Specialists position, temporarily left open when Mrs. McGhie became Acting Director during Dr. Smith's leave of absence, and the Education Officer's position which became vacant at the end of Term III. This latter job is viewed as one requiring identification of a junior person who, on the basis of demonstrated competence, could be considered for long-term association on the faculty and prepared to assume increased responsibilities with overseas MPH Training. The other two positions in research are for a Statistician and a Junior Research Fellow. For this latter job, a step above Research Assistant, a person combining teaching and research competence is wanted who would be an appropriate candidate for later overseas MPH study.

Library. The library in family planning books and materials has been quite well developed. Mrs. McGhie has made available her own library of books, journals, and an extensive collection of articles. With the increased enrollment in the health education specialization, however, additional resources are needed in the behavioral science, research methodology and health education, including subscriptions for the significant public health and health education journals.

Administration? The demands on Mrs. McGhie with her dual role as senior faculty member and Acting Director of the Unit have been extremely heavy in this developmental period. The initiation of the programme for the health educators, course development, securing teaching assistance, moving the FP/E Unit, directing the equipping of the new facilities, guiding staff, and negotiating for continued funding have been part of the activities she has carried out.

### III. SCOPE OF WORK

The most immediate need of the Acting Director, at the time the consultant arrived, was for assistance in the development and presentation of two Required Courses for the health education students scheduled to begin the first week of the Fall term. Initial planning sessions were held with Mrs. McGhie and, during the first week of classes, with the students to determine content and skill development needs to be met in the third section of the Health Education 314c course of 50 hours and the second part of Communications 302 of 25 hours. A faculty strike, called the second week of classes, closed the

campus from October 9-23. Course outlines were developed and persons identified, both on and off campus, to work with Mrs. McGhie in presenting the content of these two courses. Rescheduling plans were made to adjust for time lost during the strike.

Thirty-eight hours of the Health Education Course, focused on extending the students' understanding and skills in programme planning and evaluation processes, training, consultation and supervision were given by the consultant.

The remainder of the consultant's time was spent in conferring with the Acting Director on selection of persons to assist in the School Health Course to be presented after the consultant had left, selection of an external examiner, discussing internship placement plans, and needs of the FP/E Unit in the coming year. Possibilities were also discussed, which are presently under consideration, for the development of relations with University based health education field training programmes and health education agency programmes outside Jamaica which would provide the opportunity for student and personnel interchange during a portion of the student's internship programme.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS NEEDED

As the first "pioneering" year of this critically needed graduate programme for developing the professional health education manpower of Jamaica and the Caribbean area draws to a close, the FP/E Unit enters the coming year with increased challenges. Three students will be entering their six month internships, ten new students will begin their programme of study, service commitments will require creative leadership, and research activities will open up new areas for solving educational problems. Actions required to meet these demands are clearly recognized by the Acting Director who has given her dedicated and dynamic academic leadership unstintingly to the programme. Among the areas requiring most immediate resolution are the following interrelated needs:

1. Appropriate personnel must be secured to fill the present staff openings. It is planned to immediately place local advertisements for these positions. The shortage of persons with the qualifications and freedom to fill the Health Education Specialist position, on a temporary basis, is recognized so personal contacts have also been initiated with candidates.
2. Long-range funding is essential for recruiting and developing a stable staff required to carry out the

teaching, research and service activities of this graduate programme. As funding patterns change, it is critical that international assistance be secured to supplement local and regional resources that must increasingly support the programme.

3. Consultation assistance might be useful in the Fall of 1976 to evaluate the FP/E Unit's programme. The Diploma Course for health educators will be completing its second year of development. The Acting Director feels, with this experience as a base, assistance will be needed at that time to review what has been done, assess programme objectives, and advise on adjustments that may be needed to set directions for the programme as it enters its third year.
4. Fellowships for MPH study overseas will be needed to upgrade persons selected to fill the positions of Education Officer and Junior Research Fellow. At present only the Acting Director and Research Fellow hold these advanced degrees and they are two of the seven Jamaicans now working in the country who have this degree. It is not possible to state presently when those persons will be ready for such study, but this should be possible in the next year or two.

#### V. PERSONS CONTACTED

##### A. University of the West Indies

###### Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Dr. Kenneth L. Standard, Head  
Dr. Dorothy J. Morrow, Project Hope, Maternal and Child Health  
Dr. Conrad J. Storey - Course Coordinator, Diploma in Community Health  
Dr. Carlos Mulraine - Coordinator, Diploma in Public Health

###### Family Planning/Epidemiology Unit, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Dr. Karl A. Smith, Director (on leave)  
Mr. Ivy McGhie, Acting Director  
Mrs. Suzette Benn, Research Fellow  
Ms. Pauline Muschett, Research Assistant  
Mrs. Hazel Edmunds, Research Assistant  
Mrs. Norma Hoo, Administrator  
Mr. Olga Golding, Librarian

Department of Extra Mural Studies

Ms. Jean Tulloch-Reid, IASSW Special Project  
Dr. Mandel Lerner, Human Resources Development Project

B. Ministry of Health, Bureau of Health Education

Mrs. Carmen Stewart, Director  
Mrs. Pauline Brown, Senior Health Education Officer  
Mrs. Claire Maddix, Senior Health Education Officer  
Mr. Dorothea Tait, Senior Health Education Officer  
Mrs. Yvonne May, Senior Health Education Officer  
Miss Joyce Vincent, Senior Health Education Officer

C. National Family Planning Board

Mrs. Phyllis MacPherson Russell, Chairman  
Miss Thelma Thomas, Director of Education and  
Information

D. American Embassy

Mr. Charles Campbell, USAID Affairs Officer  
Mr. Wilbur Wallace, USAID Population Officer

E. Pan American Health Organization

Dr. Peter Carr, Consultant in Administration and  
Management  
Mrs. Kanta Khipple, Health Education Specialist  
Consultant