

School and Adolescent Health

Based on report by the Department of Education Planning and Training, student population in Myanmar is about 7.8 million. School Health Programme already integrated into PHC and other health development programmes since implementation of first Peoples' Health Plan (1978-79) has been implemented with the objective of promoting the health standard of entire student youth through health promoting school programme.

School health activities are being carried out by School Health Section of Department of Health in collaboration with international agencies like WHO, UNICEF and NGOs. Under the guidance of national health committee, various school health committees have been formed at each administrative levels since 2000. The school health committees take the leadership roles and give guidance in implementing the school health programme systematically and efficiently.

School health strategies were based on the health objective under the national social objectives, the national health policy, national population policy and the primary health care approach aiming towards a successful implementation of the school health programme.



School health strategies

1. Conducting refresher training for teachers on the development of health promoting schools to promote the health standards of the entire student youth, the skills and knowledge needed for adopting a healthy life style at all levels.
2. Enhancing better quality and coverage of school health care by providing sufficient manpower and supplies.
3. Establishing school health committees at different levels for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure successful implementation.
4. Conducting research on the impact of school health programme to promote existing school health activities.
5. Promoting co-ordination and collaboration mechanisms with ministry of education and other related departments.
6. Organising resources for national school health programme through the involvement of local and international NGO's and international organizations.

With the objective to enhance health promoting school activities, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education launched the School Health Week of 2008 in the 2nd week of August. The activities were held in all basic education schools of the country from August 11 to 17, 2008.

As part of school deworming programme 6 million school age children and preschool age children from all States and Divisions were dewormed biannually during 2008 as an integrated approach with the support of WHO and UNICEF.

Ministry of Health has also attempted to improve coordination between a number of primary health care projects, and incorporate an adolescent health component into the health promoting schools strategy and transforming it into "School and Adolescent Health" in the 2001-2006 National Health Plan. Several ongoing collaborative programmes, through MOH, departments and other ministries (e.g. Education, Sports, Immigration and Population, Information, and Religious Affairs) have components that address the needs of young people. The national five-year adolescent health and development strategic plan (2009-2013) was developed to address the priority issues affecting the health of young people in the Union of Myanmar.

