

the I.U.D. is dreaded because it disappears and goes to other places. One client spoke from practical experience. How should the message be communicated so that the clients' fears can be overcome?

The public health adviser (preventive) is responsible for the sanitary condition of surrounding villages, markets and schools.

Transport is a major problem for him as he is not provided with one except when there is an outbreak of an epidemic - usually dysentery. Meetings have been held, seminars conducted, but still no positive result. Because of this handicap he and his staff are not able to reach as many people as they would.

The untrained health inspectors (who are in the majority) cannot (at yet) communicate with the people. They do not know the approach to adopt. They are not particularly keen in listening to the people and their problems; consequently the people also do not seem to understand the job of the untrained health inspector.

Some of the Centre staff think that they have no need for any mass media since they are not in a place like Nairobi or any other big city.

THE KARURI NATIONAL REFERENCE HEALTH CENTRE

This centre is located just outside Nairobi at the "Kisumu division"; it is pretty homogeneous, most of the people being Gikuyu speaking and most of the staff of the Centre also being Gikuyu speaking.

The Centre services 50,000 people and has a staff of 23. Among them are a Family Health Educator, Public Health Educator, Public Health Preventive Adviser, Medical Officer etc. and a few supportive staff.

The job of the Family Health Educator is to motivate people to accept family planning services. She reaches her clients in the Centre, goes to their homes. But during these visits the mothers are usually out in the "shamba"; this, of course, is whenever the health educator does succeed in getting a vehicle to transport her: there are 3 vehicles effectively controlled by the Centre; two others are assigned to other clinics. Work is hindered since educator has to commute by foot. Obviously there is a technical communication problem here - inadequate means of communication.

Talking about family planning, inter alia to the clients is easy in one area: language is kikuyu for both teacher and taught; but it is apparent that the educators have not been too successful in getting the notion very well across; for example .. they do not like the rubber.



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Notes

A description of the working of the Health Centre, located outside Nairobi at the Kiamba Division. The aspect of communication is emphasized.

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