



MESSAGE

Today, public health is poised at a critical juncture in terms of its further development in India. There exists a need to review the current medical education curricula and provide a meaningful public health orientation. Public health training requires to be re-gearred to address the needs of the community. There is a need to broaden the concept of public health to include community-focused health services. While institutional care is necessary, community public health problems cannot be addressed only by health care facilities. An important challenge today, is to link institutional service delivery with national public health programmes and community-oriented services.

Concurrently, globally, there is a widespread recognition of the complex social determinants of health. Influences on human health have acquired a global dimension. In face of rapid global ization, emerging global health threats, and environmental challenges, greater integration of public health with other disciplines is needed. Multi-sectoral actions and multi-disciplinary approaches are required to achieve public health goals.

Public health is a diverse and growing field of study in India. While education in public health is vital, there needs to be equal emphasis on public health practice, with a clear vision of reaching the un-reached. In this context, the preparation of this document titled 'Textbook of Public Health and Community Medicine' is an important input to the field of public health in India. This document is a timely and valuable resource for public health practitioners, experts, and programme managers. We hope that the textbook would provide major inputs to students pursuing studies in public health.

The WHO is pleased to support this commendable initiative undertaken by the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune. It is hoped that this comprehensive work would contribute towards further development of public health education and practice in India.



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