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**DEPARTMENT** : PUBLIC HEALTH

**COURSE CODE** : INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ( PUH 202 )

**ASSIGNMENT**

Write on the contributions of world health organization on the following

1. Promoting Maternal/infant health
2. Prevention and control of communicable diseases
3. Achievement of sustainable development
4. Improvement of healthcare services and facilities

**ANSWERS**

1. **Contributions of world health organization on promoting maternal/infant health:**

Maternal health refers to the health of the women during pregnancy , childbirth, and the postpartum period. The major causes of maternal mobidity and mortality include haemorrhage, infection, high blood pressure, unsafe abortion, and obstructed labour. Achievement of sexual and reproductive health is also a human rights issue. Failure to improve sexual and reproductive health has adverse effects as it also relates to numerous health outcomes such as infant and child mortality rates and HIV prevention and care. The African Region has large intraregional disparities in terms of coverage of basic maternal health+ interventions like antenatal care. While Southern Africa reported almost universal coverage in 2010, in West Africa about one third of pregnant women did not receive antenatal care visits. Very early childbearing brings with it heightened health risks for mothers and their infants. Early childbearing is also linked to outcomes such as lower educational attainment and poverty. The African Region continues to have the highest birth rate among adolescents with approximately 120 births per 1000 adolescent women. Increased access to safe, affordable and effective methods of contraception has provided individuals with greater choices and opportunities for responsible decision-making in reproductive matters. Increased funding in maternal health services is key to achieving the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.

1. **Contributions of world health organization on prevention and control of communicable diseases:**
2. **Limiting contacts with infectious persons** :

Public health may authorize the isolation of the individuals and groups who may have been exposed to an infectious disease as well as the closure of business and premises and the confiscation of property. The exercise of these powers must be based on public health considerations, without discrimination on grounds of gender, tribal background , race, or other inappropriate criteria.

1. **Building ethical principles into infectious disease legislation** :

Law can contribute to the prevention of infectious diseases by improving access to vaccinations and contraceptives, and by facilitating screening, counseling and education of those at risk of infection. Minimizing the transmission of infectious disease is a core function of public health law. The appropriate exercise of legal powers will vary according to the seriousness of the disease, the means of transmission , and how easily the disease is transmitted.

1. **Contributions of world health organization on the improvrment of healthcare facilities and services :**

WHO leads global effects to develop standards for quality of care with accompanying implementation guideances, as well as a measurement framework for assessing progress globally and in countries.

WHO and its Member states have consistently re-affirmed their commitment to improve health of all peoples, by adopting the declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978, the global strategy for health for all in 1981, through the commission on social determinants of health and its findings in 2008.

1. **Contributions of world health organization on the Improvement of healthcare services and facilities:**

WHO has launched a global effort to promote and improve national quality policies and strategies. This initiative has published the handbook for national quality policy and strategy. Which has been developed with national quality directortates and technical experts and is designed to support national efforts, recognizing the varied expertise of national health authpriorties. As the form and content of specific policies will vary with each country’s context, WHO outlines a sequential approach that can be adapted to each situation. Policies on quality-improvement must be linked with existing national health priorities to help meet the most pressing demands of the population and to ensure that the quality-improvement agenda is aligned to these priorities.