

THE NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

1. Failure of many modern programs to follow some of the well defined scientific principles of pioneer programs - These original programs often included:
 - (a) Clearly defined objectives as to the state of health to be improved.
 - (b) Objectives stated in operational terms with acceptable indices utilized.
 - (c) A knowledge (or estimate) of the extent of the existing problem.
 - (d) Information as to the characteristics of the population at highest risk.
 - (e) Some clear hypotheses about the circumstances needing to be changed to accomplish the objective.
 - (f) Some estimates, after a period of time as to whether these circumstances had been changed.
 - (g) Some estimates as to whether these changes had been accompanied by an improvement in the health problem.

2. The need for a scientific approach to public health practice has been accentuated by
 - (a) The changing nature of health problems
 - (b) The changes in the nature of the groups at most risk in our population.
 - (c) The changes in the goals of public health programs
 - (d) The changes in some of the modes of living in our society.

Suggested Reading:

J.N. Morris Uses of Epidemiology E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.
1957, pp. 1 - 34.