

PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

- A Plan is a decision about a course of action.
- Planning is an integral part of health care system.
- It is a process of preparing a set of decisions for action in the future.
- It enables priorities to be set & identifies when resources can be directed to have the greatest impact.

PLANNING

- According to Banfield : A Plan is a systematic approach to:



PURPOSE OF PLANNING

- To develop the best course of action to accomplish a defined objective.
- To match, the limited resources with many problems.
- To eliminate wasteful expenditure .

STEPS IN PLANNING PROCESS

CONDUCTING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- To define the problem (identify its extent & severity).
- To obtain a profile of community to know the causes of the problem.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

TYPES OF INFORMATION GATHERED

- Population profile, General information (geographic distribution , diet, socio-economic status , etc) on a population.
- Epidemiological data on pattern & distribution of dental disease
- History & current status of dental health programs in the community.
- Mode of development of policies & decisions.
- Types of resources available to the community (Funds , facilities & labour available).

- All this information, can be obtained from the survey instrument.
- If a survey cant be conducted , then information can be obtained from local / state/federal agencies & private organizations.

COLLECTION OF DATA

Data can be collected by :

- Conducting a survey with various techniques
- From state , local, central agencies & private organizations.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

- First look into the socio-economic status & determine the type of employment exists.
- Population breakdown reflects the possible cultural & language issues.
- Age groups tells what the target groups are & thus sets up the priority for planning.
- Knowing the median income of the community helps in determining the population's ability to purchase health services.

- Information about public transport system provides the information regarding the population's access to health services.
- Health care facilities indicate types of services being provided , the amount of services & cost of receiving those services.

DETERMINING PRIORITIES

- ◉ Judgment of what is most important for the community.
- ◉ Health Advisory Committee is formed



With limited resources, it becomes necessary to establish priorities, to allow the most efficient allocation of resources.

- If priorities are not determined , the program may not serve those individuals / groups who need the care most.
- A problem that affects a large number of people takes priority over a problem that affects small number of people.

◎ If the health problem is dental disease, then following are the high risk groups:

1. Pre-school & school age children.
2. Mentally / physically handicapped persons.
3. Medically compromised persons.
4. Elderly persons.
5. Low income minority groups.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMME GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

- PROGRAM GOALS: are broad statements on the overall purpose of a program to meet a defined problem.
- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES are more specific & describe in a measurable way the desired end result of program activities .

- OBJECTIVES SHOULD SPECIFY THE FOLLOWING:

- What is going to be done?

- Who will be doing it?

- When it will be done?

- Where it will be done?

- Objectives are the specific avenues by which the goals are met.

IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES & CONSTRAINTS

- RESOURCES-:

Manpower, Money, Materials, Skills, knowledge, techniques & time needed for the programme.

- CRITERIA-To determine what resources should include:

- Appropriateness
- Adequacy
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency

CONSTRAINTS

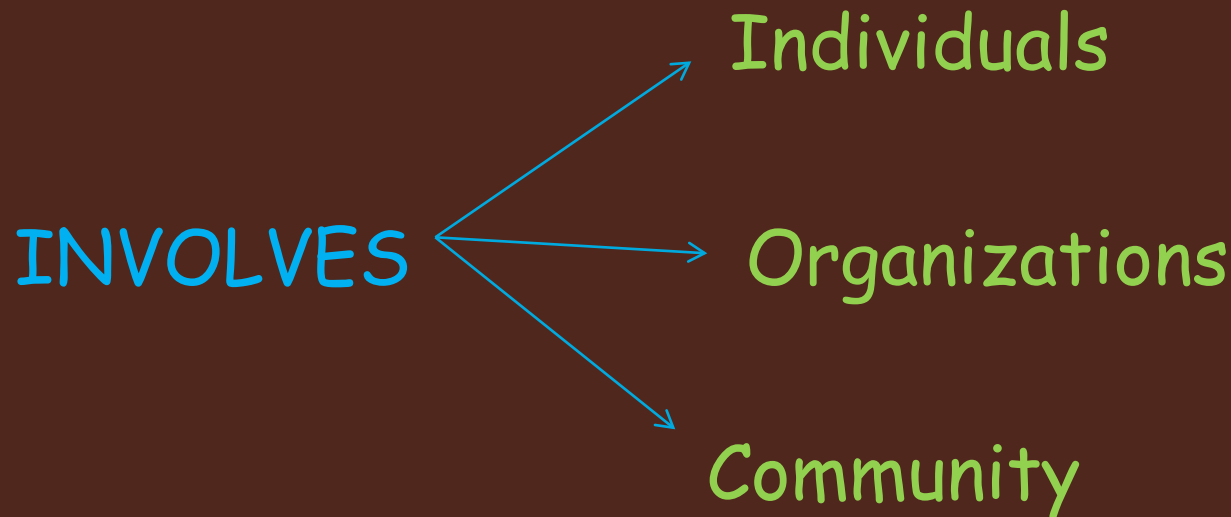
- ◎ Obstacles to achieve certain goal / objective.
- ◎ By identifying these constraints early in the planning stages , we can modify the design of the program & thereby create a more practical & realistic plan.
- ◎ E.g. Lack of funding, Inadequate transport system , Labour shortages , attitudes of professional organizations , negative community attitudes towards dentistry & population's socio-economic characteristics,etc.

ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

- The planner after determining the available resources & constraints, should consider all the alternative courses of action that might be effective in attaining the objectives.
- Sufficient number of alternatives must be generated so that out of that number at least one may be considered.

IMPLEMENTATION ,SUPERVISION,EVALUATION & REVISION

- ◎ Process of putting plan into action.



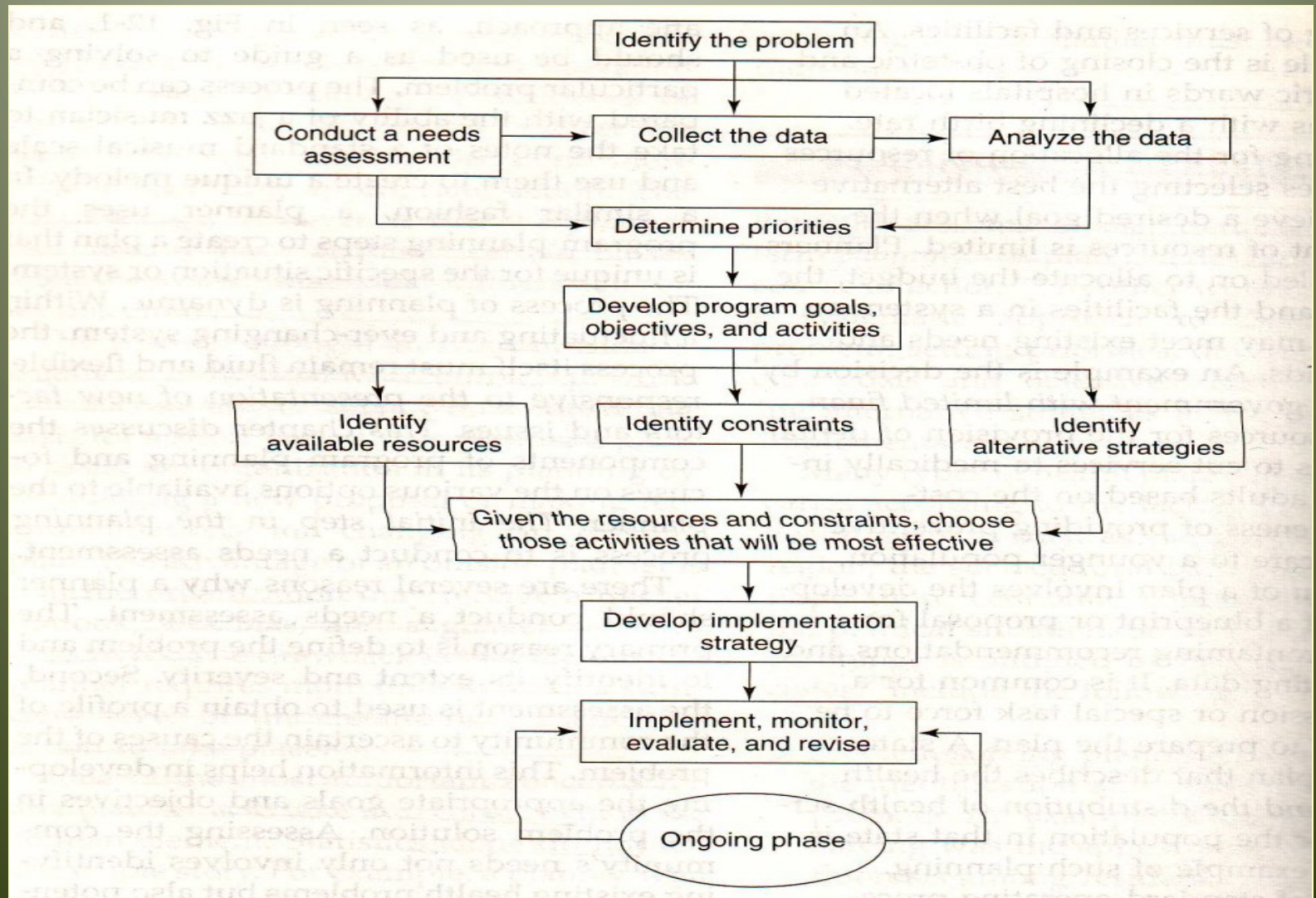
PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

- PILOT PHASE
- CONTROLLED PHASE
- ACTUALIZATION PHASE
- OPERATIONAL PHASE

MONITORING

- Once it has been implemented , the programme requires continuous surveillance of all activities.
- The programme success is determined by monitoring , whether programme objectives are met/not , individual's job efficiency,equipment functioning ,appropriateness & adequacy of facilities so as to avoid problems & adjustments are made as & when required.

STEPS IN PLANNING PROCESS



EVALUATION

- It is defined as the judgment of merit about a particular person , place/thing.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF DENTAL SERVICES (WHO 1972):

- Efficiency : Have the stated objective been achieved?
- Effectiveness : What has been the cost in man-power / finance in relation to the output of the programme?
- Appropriateness : Is the programme acceptable to both consumers & providers?
- Adequacy: Has the intended coverage of the target population been achieved & are the services readily available?

TYPES OF EVALUATION

- FORMATIVE EVALUATION
- SUMMATIVE EVALUATION