

**PHAM BICH SAN**

***Health care system at grassroot level in rural areas: Issues and prospects upon a field study***

At present time, the health care system in Vietnam has been challenging many difficulties in providing people better health service.

Based on data of the survey conducted in 14 communes in to districts of Quang Nam – Da Nang province, with a sample size of 800 households in each district, the paper provides initial ideas about activities of the health care system at grassroot level in a midland and a mountainous regions. The following aspects of health status and health care activities have been analysed: relationships between percentage of households with sick persons and regions, ethnicity, level of food sufficiency, family behaviours towards treatment and quality of health care services. The author concludes that in order to contribute intensively to people's treatment of sickness and diseases, it is necessary to provide more investment for health centres, improve health care services, upgrade qualification of health workers at grassroot levels, produce new kind of medicines and provide more active health service points.

**VU PHAM NGUYEN THANH**

***Theoretical backgrounds for health – sickness research***

Issues of health or sickness are adherent with differen living conditions and a justification for this concept of health and sickness depends on every society and this changes by the time. The article analyses different theoretical schools that had significant influences on the formation of temporary views about health and sickness: concepts of health and sickness in aicient and modern time, conflict theory, school of functionalism, conception (of health and sickness) in oriental medicines, marxist – leninist point of views, etc.

In Vietnam, issues and scope of health research are defined based on the understanding that human health is always influenced by bio – social factors. Accordingly, targets of the sociology of health are:

- To evaluate the real health status of people and the efficiency of the health system towards health care for people.
- To study social factors having impact on the health care and health protection, such as: family factors, living conditions, occupations and social environment.

**JAMES ALLMAN**

***Primary health care in Vietnam***

Because of its shortcomings in the last 15 years, the Primary Health Care (PHC) system in Vietnam has to cope with increasingly difficulties to meet people's demand on health. Based on reports that are available and results of surveys in the 1989 – 1992 period, the author evaluates the status of health care in Vietnam, reviews significant achievements in the orientation of health for everyone. The article considers the health policies and programs of the Government different State and Private health services as well as social achievements concerning health problems, such as women's education, water and sanitation, international collaboration for health improvement.

The PHC in Vietnam is now in a turning period. In the next decade, the country will rapidly develop better socio – economic conditions for people, continue to regard health as an interest of each individual.

**NGUYEN DINH HUONG**

***Prevention of child's mortality caused by pneumonia: from socio – medical aspects***

Pneumonia is one of the main diseases and reasons that causes high mortality among children under five years old. In this paper, the author presents statistic data and incidence rate of children getting respiratory disease in different localities in Vietnam, introduces the preventive program against "Acute respiratory infection" (ARI) in Vietnam and some of strategically based issues of prevention of this disease. From the socio – medical approach, this article analyses possibility of implementation of this ARI prevention program by health service centres and by mothers in treatment of this disease. The author comes to conclusion: by information – education and communication activities, improvement of knowledge of mothers and family about hygiene and sanitation, training and qualification's enhancement of commune health workers and medicines provision, etc, the ARI prevention program can have great impact in reducing child mortality.

**NGUYEN THI VAN ANH**

***Fertility preference in some rural areas of Vietnam***

In the context of fertility decline in Vietnam a study of fertility preference is necessary to measure the potential change in fertility in future. The results of the family and fertility survey conducted in 1990 three communes of three different regions in the North. Central and South

of Vietnam have found a relatively high proportion of currently married women who wanted to stop their chldbearing. Using data of this survey the author looks at demographic and socio – economic factors affecting fertility desires and differentials in fertility desires among currently married women in these communes. Two logistics regression models are made to define factors predicting the desires for additional children and contraceptive use in these areas. The paper also mentions some issues raising under the context to socio – economic changes in rural areas today that may have influences on ferility desires of rural families.