



School Health and Youth Health

School health program has been included in the first Peoples' Health Plan since 1977-78 as one of the community health projects in the country. In 1996, according to changed concepts and situation of global partners with Global School Health Initiative, Myanmar adopted the concept of health promotion through schools. Aiming to promote the health standards of the entire students, the skills and knowledge needed for adoption of healthy lifestyle, Health Promoting School programme has been introduced into existing school health services since 1996.

Essential elements of a health-promoting school include healthy school policies; the school's physical environment; the school's social environment; health instruction; individual health skills and action competencies; community links; and health services. Development of the health promoting schools is also meant to build health knowledge, skills and behaviours in the cognitive, emotional, social and behavioural domains and to enhance educational outcomes.

With the objective to enhance health promoting school activities, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education launched the School Health Week of 2011 in the 2nd week of August. The activities carried out in all basic education schools of the country from August 8 to 12, 2011.



School health committee has been developed at the central, state & region, district up to the basic functioning township and school level. The central school health committee is organized with officials and responsible persons of the related departments namely, Health, Education, Social Welfare, City Development, Indigenous Medicine, Sports and Physical Education, and local NGOs and also with the members of the local authoritative personnel at State/Regional level and township level.

The implementation of the health promoting school covered all townships in 2006. At the foundation of school health promotion, a couple of school based projects such as Tobacco free school project, Aedes free school project, school based prevention and control of soil transmitted helminthiasis (STH) control program, etc., have been integrated in the current school health promotion program. In addition, the school health program is also gaining interest from local and international NGOs, and so has received support and has worked in close collaboration with them.

Myanmar School-based STH control programme are gaining momentum with active involvement of related health projects such as School Health Project, Nutrition project, Maternal and Child Health Project and Lymphatic Filariasis elimination programme and Ministry of Education as well as WHO and UNICEF.

Adolescent and Youth Health

For student Adolescents and Youths, the School-based Healthy Living and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Programme (SHAPE) has been implemented in collaboration with the National AIDS Programme and School and Youth Health Project under the Department of Health, Department of Education Planning and Training and UNICEF since 1998. Based on SHAPE, National Life Skills Curriculum was also introduced in 2000 and has now expanded nationwide. Programmes on HIV education in schools have been conducted by the School and Youth Health Project in collaboration with National AIDS Programme.

The national five-year adolescent health and development strategic plan (2009-2013) was developed to address the priority issues affecting the health of young people in Myanmar.