

Community-based health sciences education

The concepts of community-based health sciences education (CBHSE) were well received by the participants, who were also encouraged by the opportunity to interact and communicate with their colleagues from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines within the health and social sciences sectors.

It was generally accepted that there was an urgent need to integrate training across the health and social science disciplines and to make this training relevant and accountable to the needs of broad sections of our people.

There was much discussion concerning the need to involve the community at all stages in the planning, development and implementation of initiatives towards CBHSE programmes.

What emerged at the end of two hard-working days was that, whilst the need for CBSHE as noted above was accepted, the precise mechanisms for establishing programmes, and cooperation between programmes both in and outside the country were less well understood.

There emerged a dichotomy between the views of the politically active individuals and those working within established institutions towards the same goals for CBHSE, but who are less politically active. This highlighted the continuing need for the sort of dialogue that took place during the workshop. It became evident, though, that there should be encouragement of all individuals and units within institutions so that they can undergo a process of transformation.

Mechanisms were identified that exist within the Mass Democratic Movement, (such as the Centre for Development Studies health and social sciences commissions) that can be used to facilitate these processes. □

Resolution on community-based health sciences education

This Conference, noting

1. The encouraging and positive response of participants to the concepts of Community-Based Health Sciences Education (CBHSE), and that the successful implementation of CBHSE projects revolves around the three interconnected factors of community, educational establishment, and health care delivery system;
2. The need for institutions to become actively involved in progressive changes to the health care system;
3. The effectiveness of a communication process that involved groups and individuals from disparate backgrounds and areas within the health and social sciences sectors;
4. The urgent need to integrate training across the health and social sciences disciplines, and to make this training relevant and accountable to community needs;
5. The absolute need to involve the community at all stages in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of community-based courses;

And recognising

1. The many advantages of establishing links with outside agencies possessing resources and expertise that will help to speed the process of implementation of initiatives towards CBHSE programmes;
2. The similar advantages that can accrue from linkages between programmes within institutions and organisations inside the country;
3. The imperative that all such linkages must be seen to advance the liberation struggle;
4. That the health and social sciences commissions within the Centre for Development Studies provide an ideal forum for consultation with all progressive organisations within the Mass Democratic Movement;

Hereby resolves

1. To identify, initiate and foster links with progressive individuals and units within established institutions within the country to facilitate the gradual, progressive conversions of those institutions;
2. To support cooperation between community-based health sciences education initiatives both inside and outside the country.
3. That the above two points are conditional on the strengthening of progressive organisations, and on the support of, and accountability to, structures within the Mass Democratic Movement.