

EDITORIAL

We are happy to be able to publish the second volume of The Ethiopian Journal of Health Development (EJHD) after some unavoidable delay because of organizational problems. These problems are now being solved and we hope that the Journal will continue to come out on time in the future. The articles published in this issue have been received over a period of two years, and we apologise to all authors and subscribers for the delay. However, the papers are still timely and relevant, since they all deal with contemporary problems related to the proper identification of the most common health problems facing developing countries, and to issues related to appropriate systems of solving them through locally available, acceptable and affordable methods.

For example, the paper "The prevalence of perceived morbidity" deals with the morbidity level in a community; its age and sex distribution; its economic implications in terms of days of work lost, and people's preference for modern health care. The Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey on schistosomiasis provides useful lessons that can be learned through social and behavioural diagnosis of health problems for the effective planning, implementation and evaluation of disease control programmes. The survey of intermediate hosts of human schistosomiasis is a good example of the potential danger of introducing new kinds of health problems to settlement areas without taking the necessary precaution. The discussions of the nature and role of medical geography and of the procurement of essential drugs are highly enlightening. The studies on shigellosis, on the patient referral system, and on nutritional problems deal with very relevant issues in the delivery of modern health care. We hope that all these will contribute significantly to the efforts being made to improve the management of health programmes through the primary health care approach.

It is our strong belief that the continued contribution of articles by researchers in all areas of health and health care will enhance the achievement of the World Health Organization's goal of "Health for All by the year 2000". Of course, such an impact can only be effected if and when decision-makers, planners and practitioners in the health and other related sectors are willing to make appropriate use of such research outcomes.

The printing and related costs of this issue of the Journal have been financed by the Research and Publications Office of Addis Ababa University (AAU) for which the Editorial Board is very grateful. In this regard, the Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge with gratitude the financial support of the World Health Organization, through National Health Development Network of Ethiopia for Volume 1 Number 1 and 2 of the EJHD. The Editorial Board is confident that the support of both donors will continue and that others concerned with the promotion of primary health care may provide us with additional assistance. This will enable us to sustain the timely publication of the Journal and assure its prompt circulation.

The aim is to reach more readers, especially those who will make good use of the Journal in improving their daily task of implementing health care both in Ethiopia and elsewhere.

The Editorial Board would like to inform subscribers and authors that the EJHD will, henceforth, have two issues per year, instead of the previously planned two regular issues and one special issue. Despite increases in printing costs, prices both for single issues and for annual subscriptions have been reduced in order to promote the wider circulation of the Journal. The Editorial Board invites all readers to make good use of this offer, and expresses its appreciation of their patronage.