

EDITORIAL

The Primary Health Care (PHC) approach makes intersectorality one of the keys to the success of achieving Health for All by the Year 2000 (HF A/2000). One of the key programme components of PHC is control of communicable disease (CDC). No one will dispute the critical role of CDC in improving the health of the people of the "developing" countries -Africa in particular. One of the reasons (at least an important justification) for the vertical programmes (campaigns) for CDC stems from this recognition. But vertical programmes are almost antithesis to intra-sectoral let alone inter-sectoral collaboration. The idea of integrating vertical programmes into the general health services is a very old one. But little progress has been made in those countries where such programmes had been developed. Progress in this area is determinant to the development of a consequent and effective PHC.

It is therefore essential to study and follow up development in programmes in CDC through the PHC approach. TB and leprosy are of particular interest because of the chronicity of the diseases and the consequent complexity of the control measures.

The issues of leprosy and TB control and their integration are numerous and complex. Drawing on vast experience, papers in this issue have touched upon a number of questions and show some avenues of development.

Some will need further elaboration. As pointed out during the discussions at the symposium, pilot project type (the case of Jamkhed) PHC programmes have their limitations. It will be of interest to see how communicable diseases, leprosy and TB in particular, are handled by nation (country)-wide PHC programmes.

Control of communicable diseases will continue to play an important role in health development and in achieving the social goal of HF A/2000.

It will be noted that leprosy as a whole has been given a more privileged place *vis-a-vis* TB. On the other hand, technical considerations dominate the operational issues and the socio-economic aspects of such programmes are almost not mentioned. These could be explained by the nature and organization of the symposium. Let us hope that future symposia will fill these gaps. The Journal will certainly consider favourably contributions on these issues in the future.