

## **School Health Services- Neglected Public Health Priority**

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“ Catching them young” must be the aim of any health service programs for children. School represents a key environment for the development of life long and sound attitudes to health and fitness . The school age period, 5 to 15 years, is one of the most crucial and impressionable of a child’s life when growth and development takes place on all fronts .

The schools have long been recognized as important links between health and education. They serve as the site for routine health screening; objectives of which are: -

- i) Detection of the present health problems (cross-sectional morbidity),
- ii) Diagnosis of the sequel of the morbidities experienced during the pre-school period; preventing their further deterioration and recurrence,
- iii) Provision of intervention measures to all such problems so as to permit every child to achieve optimal learning,
- iv) Prevention in childhood of health problems in adult life.

Although, school health services (SHS) programs are unable to offer solutions to all ailments, it does constitute a promising approach in making comprehensive health care available and accessible to high-risk children in both medically served and underserved areas. When universal primary education (UPE) is being greatly emphasized, the infrastructure of primary schools, can conveniently and profitably be used for childcare programs.

In developing countries, 20 –25 % of population is comprised of children of school going age, of which 50% go to school. High incidence of mortality and morbidity among them is due to inadequate health services and un-satisfactory environments at schools.

**Biography:**

Dr. Rajendra Awate has completed his MD (Masters in Community Medicine) from Shivaji University, Kolhapur, India and worked as academic resource faculty in medical universities across India, Nepal, Tanzania, Bahrain, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and currently in India. . He has been Director of Symbiosis School for Open Distance Learning and Head of Master of Public Health Program, Pune. He has published more than 15 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute.

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