

A 1.1 TERMINOLOGY: INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP EXERCISE

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Some terms are used in everyday practice and even in printed documents in very different ways and sometimes in controversial meanings so that misunderstandings and dissimilar interpretations are possible.

The field of health promotion has a distinctly uncoordinated terminology. The reason for this is that terms are taken over from different other scientific fields or are created according to historical needs and circumstances in different countries. A local jargon is frequently used.

Educational objectives

- To understand different terms in the field of public health, particularly health promotion;
- To analyze their meanings in meaningful messages;
- To analyze their origin and destiny;
- To stimulate translation from English to tongue language.

Tasks

1. Mark the terms you do not understand, find their definition;
2. Mark the terms which you feel ambiguous and discuss them with your colleagues and teachers;
3. Mark the terms you fully understand and encounter often;
4. Mark the terms you find a responding word in your mother tongue.

Recommendation for teacher

Select different terms from Health Promotion Glossary (proposal: 20 terms, 5 for each small group). Recommended time: 60 minutes.

Points for consideration

Understanding of terms will not come from learning by heart their definitions, but from analysis of their meanings in meaningful messages, and understanding of their origin and destiny. Like other words, scientific and technical terms are living and changing in spite of strict definitions.

It is helpful to find a responding word in your mother tongue, but do not be disappointed if that would be hard or impossible.