

Technical and Scientific ASPECTS

1. Training:

This constitutes an essential part of NHP activities, and it involves the Ministry of Health doctors, central office Physicians, and young Egyptian doctors outside the Project during the symposia in Cairo and Ismailia arranged jointly with the Society of Continued Medical Education in May 1992.

Four types of training courses are given at the Central Office:-

1] Training for newly recruited interviewers (MOH doctors) These courses aim at training the interviewers in the proper techniques for blood pressure measurement, weight and height measurement, and to introduce them to NHP and questionnaire forms. At the end of each course, there is a practical and written examination. Before joining the NHP, the newly recruited interviewers should pass these exams, and be certified. A total number of 122 newly graduated Ministry of Health doctors were trained in five courses, the following table shows the starting date, duration and number of trainees (MOH doctors) in each course.

Course NO	Date	Duration	Number of HOH doctors
1	8.6.91	7 days	40
2	20.7.91	5 days	30
3	3.2.92	4 days	18
4	16.3.92	3 day	10
5	27.5.92	5 days	24
Total		24 days	122

Because of the turn over rate, as some doctors leave the Project, new ones have to be recruited and trained, which necessitated several training courses.

2] Refresher training courses for the Project's interviewers: Certified interviewers receive shorter courses of 1 - 2 days.

Pitfalls in blood pressure measurement, errors and difficulties in questionnaire filling are discussed with the COPS. Generally these short refreshing courses precede each major field survey. Twenty interviewers attended these refreshing courses each time.

3] Specialized training courses for MOH doctors.

Computer training: young doctors are introduced to basic computer technology and trained by COP specialist. They help in the process of data entry, editing, quality control and analysis under the supervision of COPS. Eight doctors received computer training. @ ECG reading: courses in electrocardiography, ECG measurement and ECG reading according to Minnesota Code are given to interested doctors by COP. Trained doctors read and report ECG data under the supervision of ECG experts from the Central Office. Twelve doctors received ECG training.

1] Specialized training for COPS: Newly appointed coPs receive instructions in the techniques of accurate blood pressure measurement before they are certified. All COPS involved in field activities and measuring blood pressure and anthropometric measurements have to be certified. COPS were certified twice By an expert from Johns Hopkins university, who visited the Project in years 1991 & 1993.

The technique of Carotid artery imaging, using ultrasound Duplex scanning is used in phase II of NHP on selected groups, to detect atherosclerotic complication[^] of hypertension. This is a new technology, and part of the training in this area will be held in USA in the year 1993.