INTRODUCTION

• A school health centre is a building or structure set up in a learning institution to provide health services to the learners, teachers, and other personnel.

• These centers mainly deal with adolescents whose health is at risk from exposure to various environmental circumstances.

• Such young individuals have little capacity to understand how their body functions and thus school health centers shoulder the responsibility of identifying health challenges affecting this population.
ROLE OF SCHOOL HEALTH CENTERS

• Promote positive health
• Prevent diseases
• Ensure early diagnosis, intervention and proper follow-up
• Create awareness on health matters among children
• Provide a healthy learning environment
SIGNIFICANCE OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

• Schoolchildren’s welfare forms a vital component in the continuity of the society.

• These young people are the most vulnerable of the population as they are prone to physical, emotional, and social interference (Williams-Mbengue, 2016; Littlecott, Moore & Murphy, 2018).

• They come from diverse social and economic backgrounds that determine their health and nutritional status and schools provide a different environment that may interfere with their health (Brunello et al., 2016).
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Routine health appraisal of the learners and other personnel.
- Follow-up measures on children diagnosed with various illnesses.
- Sensitization on how to prevent communicable diseases.
- Providing first aid services.
- Conducting mental health assessment.
- Storage and maintenance of school health records.
ROUTINE HEALTH APPRAISAL

- Regular examination of the children, teachers and other medical personnel.
- Undertaking medical examination of all learners during entry.
- Regular clinical assessment for nutritional deficiency through examination of the faeces (Wiskin et al., 2015).
- Regular screening of the vision of the learners.
- Assessment of the mental health of all learners to determine their mental stability (Schulte-Körne, 2016).
FAST AID CARE

• Learning institutions are a community by themselves and ought to have arrangements for the provision of first aid and emergency care for the learners (Qureshi et al., 2018).

• School health centers should train teachers and prepare them to handle emergency situations both in their institutions and at home (Urso & Rozalski, 2014).

• Learners should also be taught basic first aid procedures to apply in emergencies.
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