Considering Health Literacy As A Priority
What We Have In Hand

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Aim

• Evaluating Health Literacy from Governmental Perspective
• Sharing The Perception of Health Literacy and The National Strategic Plan to Improve Health Literacy
• What We Did to Understand The Status
• Future Plans
Introduction

- Changing health problems require new/innovative solutions
- Tailor-made solutions for Turkey to overcome health system challenges in the changing environment: Health Transformation Program
- Being a part of the international agenda in a country surrounded by conflicts
Introduction

• Next step: Health Literacy
• Mixture of cultures, religions, and languages: Turkey

• How?
  ▫ Baseline and effective elements
  ▫ The other side of table: Healthcare professionals
Strategic Plan of MoH of Turkey (2013-2017)

- Strategic Goal 1
  - “To protect the individual and the community from health risks and foster healthy life styles”
  - Strategic Objective 1.3
    - “To develop health literacy to increase individuals’ responsibility for their health”
Program on Building Up Multisectoral Health Responsibility
Multisectoral Approach to Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion

CHAPTER 12
Improvement of Evidence Based Health Communication
(Based on Health Literacy)

• Analysis and Evaluation of the current status
• Strategies for Building Future
• Priorities and Measures
• Distribution of roles and responsibilities
Health Communication

Health Literacy

- How to Use Any Healthcare Facility
- Getting Quick and Correct Information
- Expressing Discomfort
- Describing The Symptoms of Disease
- Development of Positive Health Behaviour
- Critical and Carefully Listening
- Management of Treatment Processes
Analysis and Evaluation of Current Status on Health Literacy

A.1. Health Literacy from Healthcare Providers Perspective
   ▫  1.1. Being unaware from the role of Health Literacy as a Primary Tool for Prevention of Health Problems and Effective and Efficient Use of Healthcare Services
   ▫  1.2. Unable to make Health Terminology Understandable by Public
   ▫  1.3. Insufficiency of content and period of Graduate and Postgraduate Educational Programs of Healthcare Providers
   ▫  1.4. Not Giving Priority to Health Literacy in Curricula
   ▫  1.5. Unable to Make Behavior Change in Healthcare Stuff During Education
   ▫  1.6. Insufficiency of Instructors’ Quality and Quantity
   ▫  1.7. Unable to Digest Social Determinants of Health and Psychosocial Maturation of Human
   ▫  1.8. Insufficiency in Listening and Develop of Empathy
   ▫  1.9. Not Giving Credit to Health Literacy Service in Performance Criteria
Analysis and Evaluation of Current Status on Health Literacy

• **A.2. Health Literacy from Health System Perspective**
  ▫ 2.1. No Action Plan for Improving Health Literacy
  ▫ 2.2. Insufficiency of Health System on Producing and Delivering Correct, Applicable, and Evidence Based Health Knowledge
  ▫ 2.3. Not Enough Funding of R & D Activities on Improving Health Literacy
Analysis and Evaluation of Current Status on Health Literacy

• **A.3. Health Literacy from Healthcare Service Users Perspective**
  ▫ 3.1. Unable to Reach Correct and Reliable Health Knowledge and Protection from Information Pollution
  ▫ 3.2. Insufficiency in Knowledge and Ability of Public on Managing Health Problems
  ▫ 3.3. Insufficiency in Knowledge on Patient’s Rights
  ▫ 3.4. Not Taking Role in Decision Making on Health-Related Issues
  ▫ 3.5. Unable to Benefit from Quality Healthcare Services
  ▫ 3.6. Unable to Reach Suitable Services Because of Uneasiness in Querying
Analysis and Evaluation of Current Status on Health Literacy

- **A.4. Research and Development**
  - 4.1. Insufficiency of Country Specific Tools and Methods to Evaluate Health Literacy Situation
  - 4.2. Not Performing Content Specific Research Because of Insufficient Awareness of Policy Makers, Academicians, and Executers
  - 4.3. Unable to Assess Health Literacy Level
Analysis and Evaluation of Current Status on Health Literacy

• **A.5. Monitoring, Evaluation, Inspection**
  ▫ 5.1. No Tools for Monitoring and Evaluation
  ▫ 5.2. No Surveillance System for Evaluation of Behavioral Change
  ▫ 5.3. Difficulties in Evaluation of Efficiency in Intervventional Research on Health Literacy
Priorities and Measures for Improving Health Literacy

Strategic Goal 1: Provide Healthcare Service Providers have Knowledge and Ability on Health Literacy

Priorities

1.1. Develop Tailor Made Educational Modules on Health Literacy for Graduate and Postgraduate Healthcare Professionals
1.2. Introduce Health Literacy Lessons in Curricula of Schools Educating Healthcare Professionals
1.3. Put Health Literacy Service in Performance Criteria
Priorities and Measures for Improving Health Literacy

Strategic Goal 2: Improving Capacity of Health System on Producing and Delivery of Correct, Applicable, Reliable, and Evidence Based Health Knowledge

Priorities

2.1. Provide Usage of Evidence Based Health Communication Means by Health System
2.2. Improve Collaboration Between Public, Schools, and Health Services for Building Up Health System
2.3. Develop and Support Programs for Improving Health Literacy Level
Priorities and Measures for Improving Health Literacy

Strategic Goal 3: Improving Health Literacy Level of Healthcare Service Users

Priorities

3.1. Improving Ability to Reach and Use of Correct and Reliable Health Knowledge of Community

3.2. Understanding Necessity of Involvement of Individuals to Decision Making Processes and Provide Means for This Purpose
Priorities and Measures for Improving Health Literacy

Strategic Goal 4: Supporting R & D Activities on Health Literacy

4.1. Raising Awareness on Health Literacy Research
4.3. Promoting Research on Health Literacy
Priorities and Measures for Improving Health Literacy

Strategic Goal 5: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Inspection of Health Literacy Activities

5.1. Development of Tools for Monitoring and Evaluation
5.2. Establishment of Surveillance Systems for Behavioral Change and Providing Sustainability
What We Did So Far...

- Adoption of The European Health Literacy Survey (HLS-EU) and Validity Evaluation
- Pilot Survey
- Survey on Approach of Primary Healthcare Level Health Stuff to Health Literacy
- Evaluation of Perception of Public on Main Themes of Health Literacy
- Development of Educational Modules on Health Literacy for Health Professionals and Evaluation of Education
Next Steps...

- Determination of Health Literacy Level with a Sampling Representing Turkey
- Establish a Surveillance System on Health Literacy
- Educate 400 Educators for Healthcare Professionals
- Improve Distant Learning Program Accordingly for Healthcare Professionals
- Face to Face Education of Healthcare Professionals (≈44,000)
- Development of Learning Guides
- Monitoring & Evaluation
Thank You

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