COMMUNITY NURSING

CHAPTER 6

Environmental Health in Community Nursing

Environmental Health in Community Nursing

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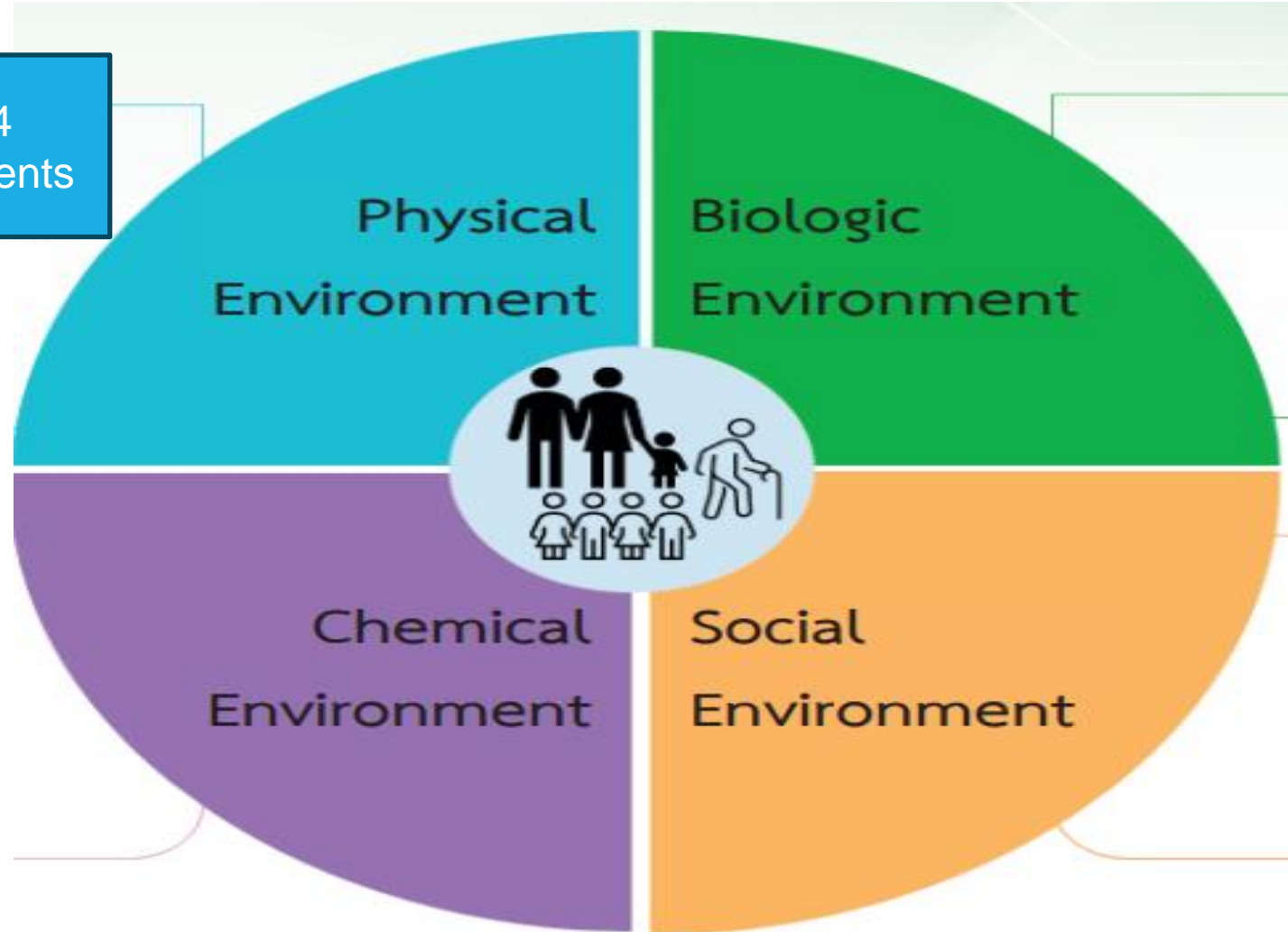
Objectives

After studying this chapter learners can:

1. explain the definition and scope of environmental health according to the WHO announcement.

2. explain the role of community nurses in enhancing environmental health.

3. explain strategies for enhancing environmental health.

Environment

The 4 components

Physical Environment

Biologic Environment

Chemical Environment

Social Environment

2 Types

➢ Natural Environment

➢ Man-Made Environment/ Built Environment

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

What is **E**nvironmental **H**ealth?

Definition: Environmental health focuses on how environmental factors impact human health and well-being, including physical, chemical, biological, social, and cultural factors.

✓ Examples: Air and water quality, climate change, toxic substances, sanitation, and hygiene.
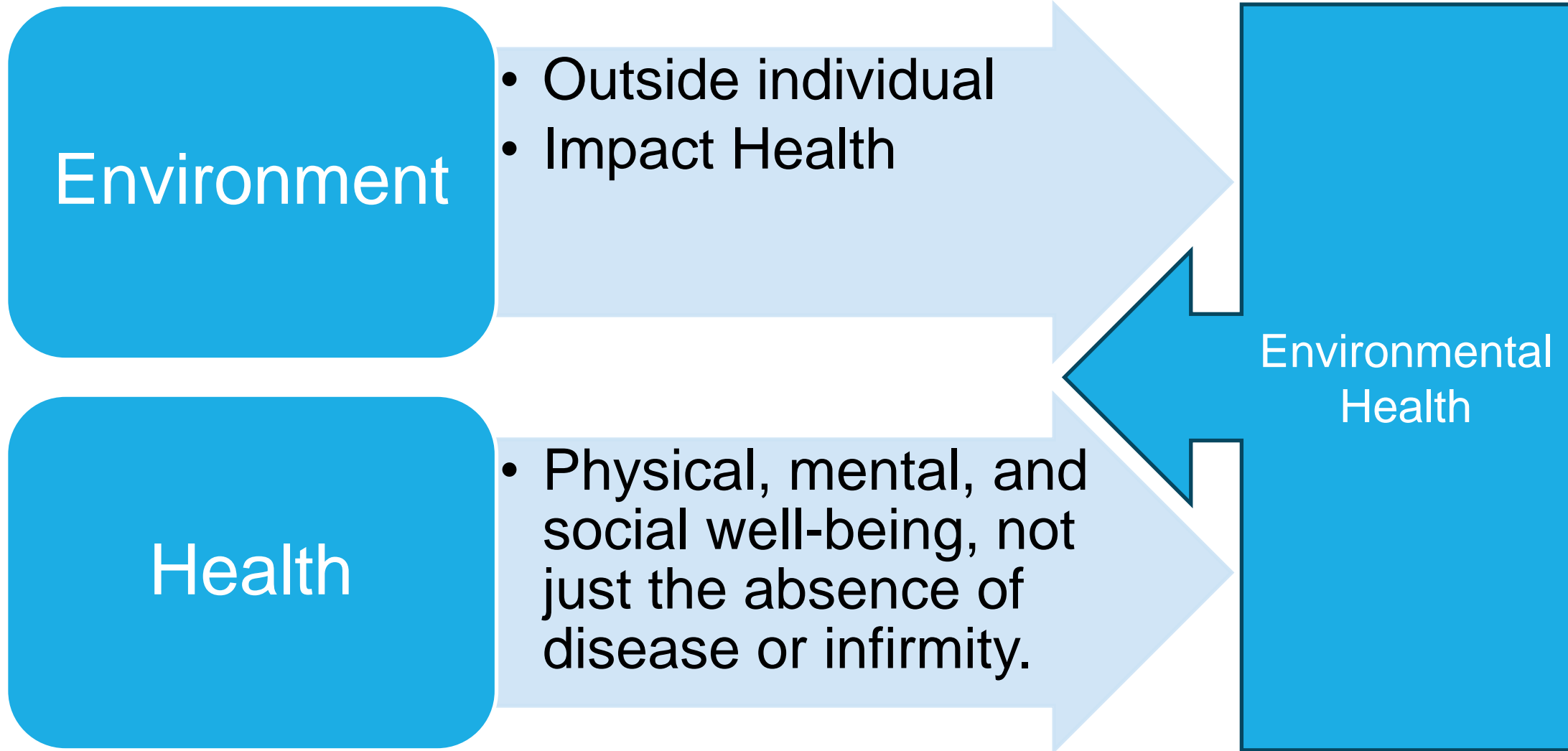
What is Environmental Health?

Environment

- Outside individual
- Impact Health

Health

- Physical, mental, and social well-being, not just the absence of disease or infirmity.

Environmental Health

What is Environmental Health?

Definition: The World Health Organization (WHO) defines environmental health as the branch of public health concerned with understanding how environmental factors can affect human health.

The National Environmental Health Strategic Plan No. 3, 2017-2021 (แผนยุทธศาสตร์อนามัยสิ่งแวดล้อมแห่งชาติ ฉบับที่ 3 พ.ศ. 2560-2564)

- Thailand has a definition of environmental health based on the World Health Organization's definition that **deals with physical risk factors chemicals and biology outside of people and related factors affecting environmental health behavior including assessment and control of environmental factors that can affect health, with a goal for disease prevention and creating an environment conducive to good health for the present generation and future generations.**

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

The 17 realms of environmental health as addressed by the WHO

1. Procurement of clean water
2. Water pollution control
3. Management of solid waste and sewage
4. Control of arthropods and rodents
5. Prevention and control of soil pollution
6. Food sanitation

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

The 17 realms of environmental health as addressed by the WHO

7. Air pollution control

8. Protection from radiation hazards

9. Occupational health

10. Control of noise pollution

11. Management of the living environment and nearby areas

12. Urban planning

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

The 17 realms of environmental health as addressed by the WHO

13. Environmental management related to transportation

14. Preventing accidents and emergencies

15. Sanitation of recreational facilities.

16. Sanitary operations in the event of epidemics, emergencies, disasters, and population migration.

17. Protect against environmental risks.

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

The 5 realms of environmental health as addressed by Thailand

18. Cross-border pollution

19. Health impact assessment

20. Climate change

21. Nuisance

22. Chemicals and hazardous substances

(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

The Bangkok Declaration

Announcement of the Bangkok Declaration on Environment and Health Has approved the regional environmental and health action plan in 6 areas:
1) Air quality
2) Water supply, hygiene, and sanitation
3) Solid and hazardous waste
4) Toxic chemicals and hazardous substances
5) Climate change, ozone depletion and ecosystem changes
6) Contingency planning, preparedness and response in environmental health emergencies
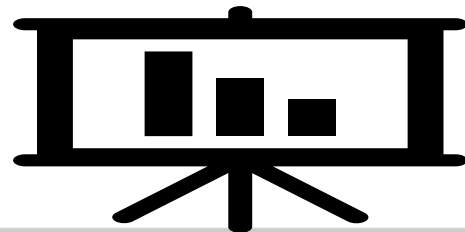
(Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2021)

Thank You for Your Attention

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to be continued

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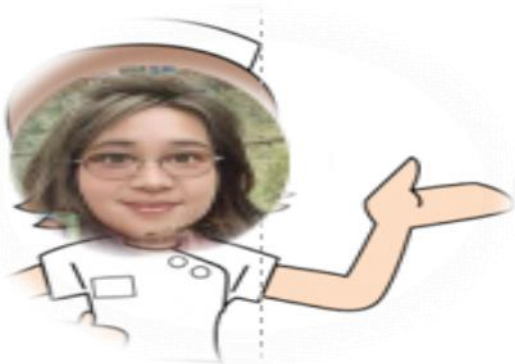
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Episode 2

Role of Community Nurses

Strategies for Enhancing Environmental Health

Nakhon Pathom
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Significance?

Environmental Health in Community Nursing

Environmental health plays a crucial role in the well-being of individuals and communities. Community nurses are at the forefront of promoting and maintaining environmental health standards.

Role of Community Nurses

Role of Community Nurses in Enhancing Environmental Health

Assessment: Conducting environmental health assessments to identify potential risks within the community.

Education: Educating individuals and communities about environmental health hazards and promoting healthy behaviors.
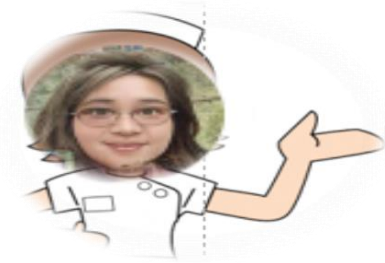
Advocacy: Advocating for policies and practices that promote environmental health at the local, regional, and national levels.

Collaboration: Collaborating with other healthcare professionals, government agencies, and community organizations to address environmental health issues comprehensively.

Strategies for Enhancing Environmental Health

The 4 **strategies**

✓ *Monitoring and Surveillance:* Regular monitoring of environmental factors and health outcomes to identify trends and potential risks.

✓ *Health Promotion*: Encouraging behaviors that contribute to a healthier environment, such as recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable transportation.

Strategies for Enhancing Environmental Health

The 4 strategies

- ✓ ***Policy Development:*** Supporting policies that prioritize environmental health, such as clean air regulations and waste management **initiatives.**
- ✓ **Community Engagement:** Involving community members in decision-making processes and empowering them to take ownership of environmental health initiatives.
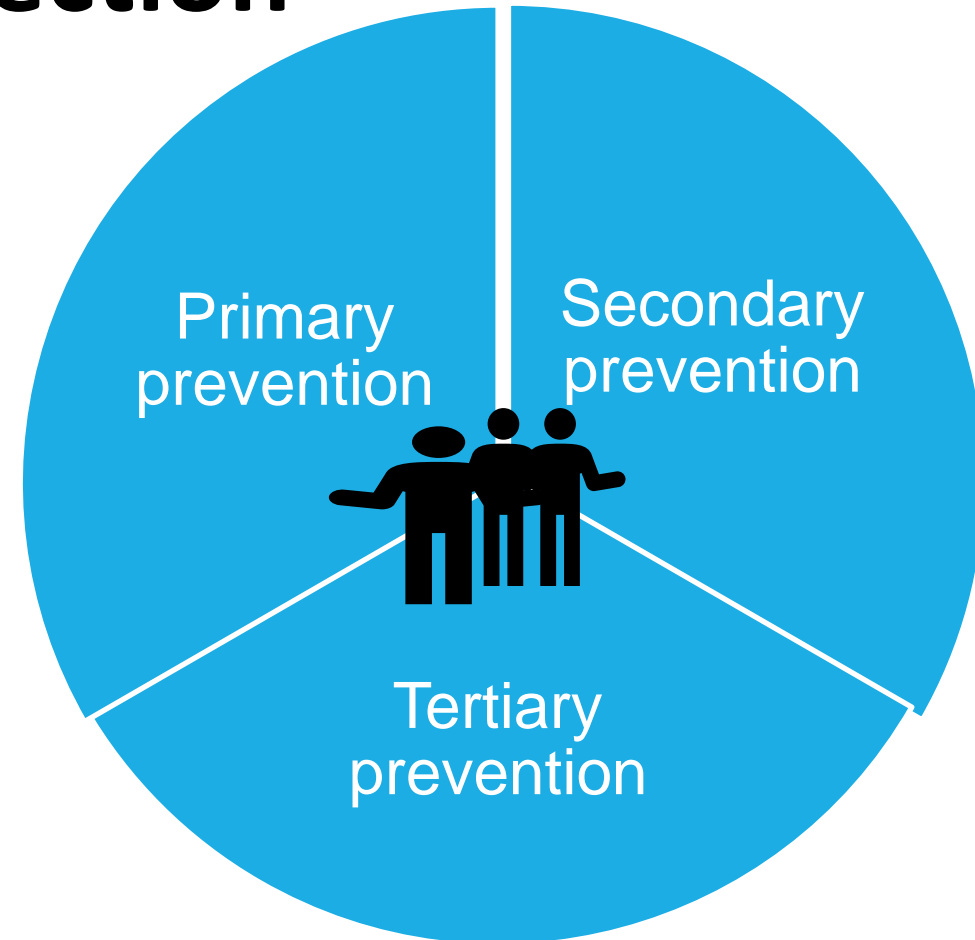
The three Levels of Environmental Health Protection

- Environmental health protection involves strategies and actions aimed at safeguarding public health from environmental hazards.

Primary prevention

Secondary prevention

Tertiary prevention

Primary Prevention

- **Primary prevention** focuses on preventing environmental hazards from occurring or reducing their occurrence.
- *Strategies include:*
  - *Implementing regulations and policies* to control pollution and ensure environmental quality.
  - *Promoting sustainable practices* in industries, agriculture, and urban planning.
  - *Educating the public* about environmental risks and *promoting healthy behaviors.*

Example: Enforcing emission standards for vehicles to reduce air pollution.

Secondary Prevention

- *Secondary prevention* aims to detect and mitigate environmental hazards before they cause harm to public health.
- **Strategies include:**
  - *Monitoring environmental quality* through surveillance systems for air, water, and soil pollution.
  - *Conducting environmental health assessments* to identify potential risks.
  - *Implementing early warning systems* for natural disasters and industrial accidents.
- **Example:** Monitoring water sources for contamination and issuing advisories to prevent waterborne diseases.
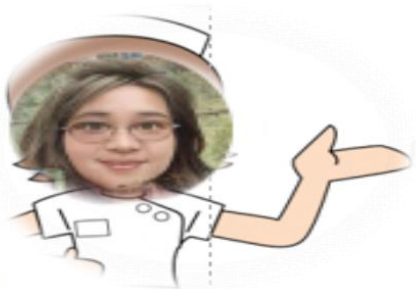
Tertiary Prevention

• **Tertiary prevention** focuses on reducing the impact of environmental hazards on public health and providing interventions to affected individuals.

• **Providing medical treatment and healthcare services** to individuals affected by environmental exposures.

• **Offering rehabilitation** and support services for communities impacted by environmental disasters.

• **Researching** to understand the long-term health effects of environmental exposures.

• **Example:** Offering medical care and counseling to individuals suffering from respiratory illnesses due to air pollution.
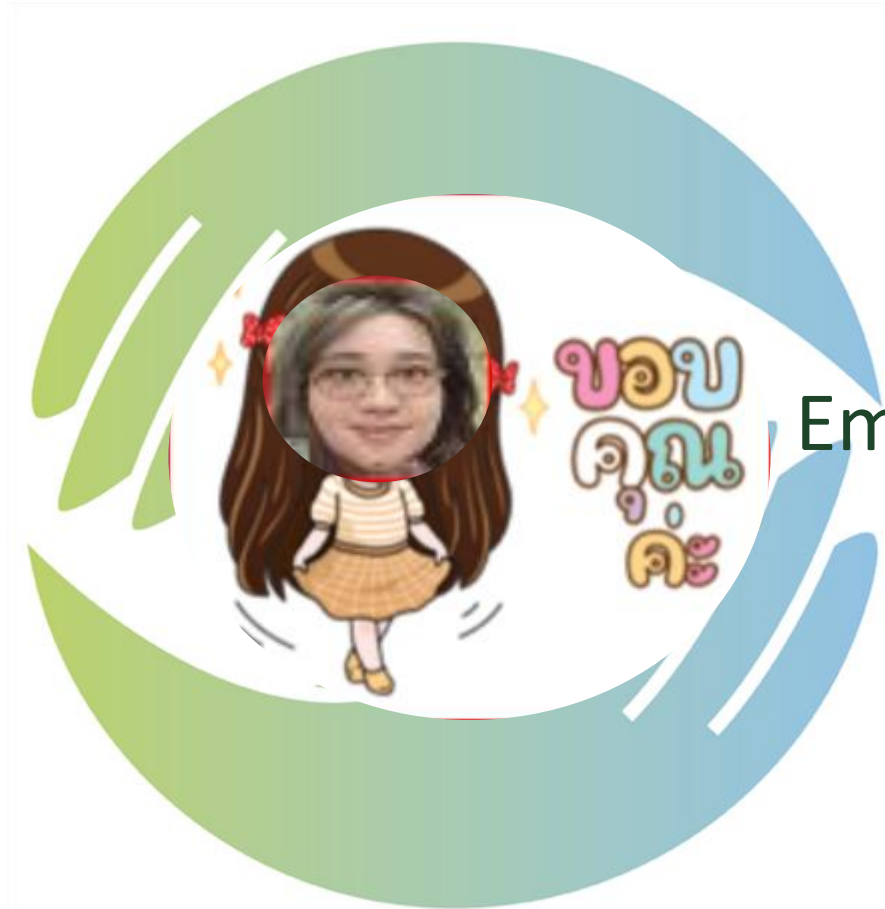
Integration of the Three Levels

- The three levels of environmental health protection are interconnected and complementary.

- Primary prevention lays the foundation for a healthy environment by preventing hazards.

- Secondary prevention detects risks early and minimizes their impact on health.

- Tertiary prevention provides support and care to those affected by environmental exposures.

- Together, these levels form a comprehensive approach to environmental health protection.

Conclusion

➢ Environmental health is integral to the practice of community nursing.

➢ Community nurses play a vital role in identifying, addressing, and preventing environmental health hazards.

➢ By working collaboratively with stakeholders, community nurses can contribute to creating healthier and sustainable environments for all.

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