

Skills Building for (a would-be) Epidemiologist

Dr. Pasakorn Akarasewi

Senior consultant and
Former Director BOE,
Former Director of National TB Program
Former director of the Principle Recipients of Global Funds
For AIDS-TB-Malaria (PR- GFATM)
Fmr. National Focal Point of Thailand International Health Regulation

Understanding the role of Epidemiologist

(what we do, and are expected to do – well)

- Public Health mission, task.
- Surveillance, review, assess the situation
- Outbreak, abnormal event investigation
- Diseases Control
- Provide analysis, recommendation and formulate proper public health policy
- Research
- Public Health Emergency Response and Management (local, national, global – IHR)
- Etc. (You are a handy-man)

Build up the right character

- Self – Driven, Motivation
- Define Goal and professional career – what I want to be, visualize picture of yourself.
- Open-minds
- Public Health value “Population and Individual”
- Right Attitude, harmonize “We and Me”, “Yes, I can”, “Together, we success”
- Success can be measured “inside-out”, not only “Outside-In”
- Failure is Lesson

What are the essential skills for epidemiologist

- **Observational skill** – you will need to become a good, sharp observer!
- **Searching skills** - Set up (relevant) questions, hypothesis
- **Learning ability** (Self – driven learning)
- **Technical skill** – to obtain information, evidences, organize information,
- **Analytical Skill**, (and common senses) Estimation, Calculation, Computing (if possible)
- **Communication skills**
- **Management Skills** – Team and Leadership skills

This is important

- Logical Thinking
- Scientific Thinking
- Weak adherence to faith, myth (challenging)
- Think of other things, different dimension, across the time (past, present, future)
- Avoid bias
- Do not overstate the evidence, exaggerated claims
- Be Objective.

Additional Skills

(take you to the high fly)

- Language and communication ability
- Writing (report, scientific document/paper, technical papers, guiding document)
- Statistics
- Information technology
- Social and cultural abilities
- Managerial skill
- Project Management, including financial literacy

“Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish”

Speech - Steve Jobs,
at Stanford University, 2005

Self Analysis, gap identified
Prioritize skill building
focusing – one/two at a time
Never be too late to do
Learn from others
“collaboration”