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SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF JOB SATISFACTION OF  
ASSISTANT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMPs)  
EMPLOYED IN THE HEALTH SERVICES IN SRI LANKA

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As a prelude to a study on the performance of the AMPs as providers of primary health care in rural Sri Lanka, it is aimed in this investigation to evaluate their level of job satisfaction. A questionnaire has been prepared dealing with, (i) the level of satisfaction with the present status of employment and their future prospects, (ii) satisfaction with their training programme as AMPs

and (iii) the relevance of the training programme in the actual performance of the daily duties as AMPs.

Of the 790 questionnaires sent to all the available addresses, only 501 (63.4%) responded; 110 had been returned due to untraceable addresses. Of the 501 that responded, 170 were found to be trained as AMPs after the year 1974. Fifty three percent of the AMPs were males; 74% Sinhalese, 20% - Tamils and the rest - Moors and others. Only 1.5% were over 40 years, whereas the others were within the age range of 26 to 39 years.

It was also revealed, (a) other than the respect and regard of the community, there is a high degree of dissatisfaction with the present status of employment and the future prospects, (b) areas such as mental health, administration, dental health, therapeutics and contraception has been rated by more than 33% as unsatisfactory pertaining to their training programme and (c) quite surprisingly, certain areas which were rated as satisfactory in (b), were rated as not relevant in the performance of their duties. Therefore, it is concluded that the whole programme of AMP training has to be revamped in line with the current needs and demands in the delivery of primary health care.