

## ABSTRACT

During September 1995, the Epidemiology Unit assessed that there was an outbreak of dengue in Jamaica as evidence by a steep increase in confirmed dengue cases - consistent with an epidemic.

Approximately ten million Jamaican dollars of additional funds had to be earmarked for Dengue and *Aedes Aegypti* prevention and control, as all 13 parishes were affected.

Greendale a small middle income peri-urban community just outside of Spanish Town in the parish of St. Catherine was selected randomly for study from a stratified list of communities, to determine whether community participation in the control of Dengue and the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito could be fostered, within this type of setting.

The results showed that 83% of the respondents would be willing to participate voluntarily for this type of program.

The challenge is how to translate their willingness into positive community action. Active participation of communities in health matters is now seen as the means by which radical health improvement for the majority of people can be accomplished.

Health education is seen by most health

professionals as the most common solution to community problems, however the ad-hoc manner in which it is conducted in Greendale needs to be addressed. Among the recommendations to ensure long term sustainable programmes is that concept of community participation should be part of the school curriculum within the context of safe environments.