

## **ABSTRACT**

As leaders of health teams, physicians are expected to have a firm knowledge, perception and practice of the requirements of the concept of Primary Health Care (PHC) and Health for All by the Year 2000 (HFA-2000), which was declared in 1978.

This study, done between December 1995 and February 1996 examined the effect of the source of training, geographical location, specialty and years in practice on the knowledge, perception and practice of medical doctors regarding Primary Health Care (PHC) and Health for All by Year 2000 (HFA2000).

Using a cross-sectional survey method, a sample frame of 1246 registered doctors was taken and the doctors were interviewed with questionnaires after exclusion of doctors at the UWI who had undergone a similar study (not practice) in 1994 by Wynter.

Twenty years after Alma Ata Declaration, a fair number of doctors are still lacking in the practice of PHC/HFA but

their knowledge and perception of PHC/HFA is good. The University of the West Indies-trained doctors had a higher knowledge and perception of PHC/HFA but a lower practice level as compared to overseas trained doctors. Specialists had a high knowledge and perception PHA/HFA but a lower practice level as compared to general practitioners. Being located in the urban area was associated with a lower knowledge but a higher perception of PHC/HFA as compared to rural doctors. Geographical location did not influence the practice of PHC/HFA, however, the number of years in practice increased the practice of PHC/HFA.

The emphasis on curative-prevention during their training, time, type and nature of patient contact, socio-economic factors and years of exposure to disease and cure are some of the factors influencing positively or negatively on the knowledge, perception and practice of doctors in Jamaica.

A socio-economic framework inclined towards improving a community-oriented medical education (for both undergraduates and practising physicians) would enhance PHC towards the achievement of HFA-2000 and beyond.