

Towards Sustainable Well-Being: From the Care-Seeker and the Care-Giver: Challenges to the Implementation of Community-Based Health Planning and Services

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Abstract

Purpose: The objective of this paper was to explore the implementation challenges of the community-based health planning and services following persistent reports by the Ghana Statistical Service of poor clinical attendance, high incidence of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in the Region.

Design/methodology/approach: This qualitative study used thirty in-depth interviews involving eight community health officers, eight community health volunteers and fourteen women receiving maternity care in the Yendi Municipality of the Northern Region of Ghana.

Findings: Amongst other factors, the study observed poor co-ordination of healthcare interventions, cultural beliefs and practices, lack of incentives and poor community engagement as major setbacks to the progress of the policy. The policy should be carried out as part of the healthcare system by linking up with other healthcare interventions to increase access. There is the need for the policy to be re-visited and reformed to equip and mandate the facilities to provide skilled birth care. The community engagement aspect of the initiative should be given particular attention to make the healthcare services more accessible and acceptable to women to improve access to maternity care towards sustainable development.

The research is done in the Yendi Municipality of the Northern Region of Ghana, it is original and not given to any other publisher.

Keywords: Community, Clinical Attendance, Ghana, Child Mortality, Yendi Municipality, Health Care System, Maternity Care, Skilled Birth Care

Introduction

The community-based health planning and services (CHPS) is one of the prioritised policies to promote maternal healthcare in rural Ghana (Quarshie, 2010). Through the community health officers (CHOs) CHPS provides a range of services including antenatal care, postnatal care and emergency delivery during the crowning point of labour and delivery (Ntsua et al., 2012). This programme uses community health volunteers (CHVs) who are supported by communities, including the recruitment, training, and deployment of volunteer workers to provide family planning services and refer clients to CHOs (Awoonor-Williams et al., 2013).