

The impact of community health volunteers

Due to the shortage of community health workers (CHWs), community health volunteers (CHVs) become important to support. What kind of activity that CHVs can do in the community health setting? Is their help practical? Woldie et al. (2019) discussed the roles and performance of CHVs in community health service. CHVs work exact as CHWs but at a basic level, including disease prevention, disease treatment and health promotion. CHVs cannot handle complex situations, or they need supervision. That is true because CHVs are not trained, and they do not master enough professional skills. Even so, Woldie et al. (2019) pointed out that if support and resource are enough, CHVs can make a significant change in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by extending the coverage.

Another study conducted by Ma et al. (2019) gives a specific situation: the control and prevention of diarrhea and fever on children in the Volta Region, Ghana. In this study, Ma et al. (2019) observed that the prevalence of diarrhea and fever has no statistically significant change following the CHVs' home visit. However, the authors observed improved hand hygiene practices, increased utilization of insecticide-treated bed nets, and greater participation in community outreach programs. Thus, Ma et al. (2019) concluded that even though the change is not significant. Nevertheless, childhood infectious disease prevalence may decrease due to lifestyle changes.

Thus, it is evident that CHVs can support the formal health system in disease prevention and health promotion in LMICs.

References

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