Book of Abstracts

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PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN MALAYSIA—FUTURE CHALLENGES

Prof. Hematram Yadav
International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

This paper will describe the development of Primary Health Care (PHC) and the expanded scope of PHC in Malaysia. Since the introduction of PHC in Malaysia during the 1970s there have been several challenges of PHC both in the rural areas and urban areas in Malaysia. The aim of this paper is to describe the development of PHC initially in the rural areas and following the WHO guidelines. With the increasing demand and changing demography there was a need to introduce the Expanded Scope of PHC in the country for the rural areas. Recently there has been an introduction of the 1Malaysia clinic in the urban areas to cater the needs of primary care for the urban areas. The rural health set up of the health centres in the country is well organized and easily accessible and affordable for the rural people. Results have shown that the Primary Health care has been very successful in the country and this is seen by the decrease in the health status indicators of the country. However whether PHC is sustainable with the current financing needs to be seen. The future challenges and problems for both the rural and urban PHC will be described in this presentation.

Keywords: primary health care, expanded scope of primary health care, Malaysia, 1Malaysia clinic
ORAL PRESENTATIONS
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) IN SCOTLAND: REVIEW OF ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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\textit{Institute of Health and Wellbeing, the University of Glasgow, UK}\textsuperscript{2}

\textbf{ABSTRACT}

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a DNA virus that infecting human epithelial cells, inner layer of the skin or genital surfaces. Approximately, more than 100 types of HPV had been identified, 40 of them may infect genital area-sexually transmitted. Most of HPV infections are typically occurs without any symptoms and subclinical, however, they may progress to cervical cancer, anogenital cancer, head and neck cancer also genital warts which are spread on the vagina, cervix, vulva, anus in women and scrotum, penis or anus in men. Owing to seriousness number of case, genital HPV therefore become one of public health concern not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. Scotland is one of industrialized country that concern about this problem. An understanding of epidemiology, public health efforts and health policy debate of HPV infections in Scotland will provide broader perspective of issues and challenges of controlling this highly transmissible virus. In September 2008, The Scottish HPV immunization programme was started. The vaccination is delivered for all girls in aged 12 to 13 years, second year in public/private secondary school. There is still controversial issues about HPV for boys, whether it is important or not to build HPV programme for them. Moreover, males have a probability to spread the infections, and ignoring this group could treat population condition. Several challenges are faced in terms of HPV test participation such as beliefs, religious, ethnicity and cultural factors in women. Moreover, for males, HPV programme seems reasonable to be implemented.

\textbf{Keywords:} HPV, human papillomavirus, Scotland
FACTORS PROPAGATING THE SPREAD OF EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE IN WEST AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

The complex nature of Ebola epidemic ongoing in West Africa has brought up a lot of reviews on the causes of Ebola virus disease (EVD) spread and factors hindering the fight against EVD. Here we reviewed different Ebola epidemic chronologically and by population affected. Since recent outbreak in West Africa in December 28, 2013 in Guinea and its spread to neighboring countries with fatality case rate of 25% to 90% and over 5000 people infected, efforts have been made to curb the disease spread by various government organizations and non-government organizations. We made use of data collected by various organizations working to treat the victims of EVD and working towards controlling the spread of EVD such as world health organization and Centre for disease control, it is from the data collected that mathematical models are used to assess the impact of the disease in the west African region and globally. The work elaborated factors militating against the curbing of the spread of EVD in west Africa such as; Superstitious belief of the communities affect by EVD, poor economy in the region affecting health infrastructure, lose border control in the west African region, shortage of health workers fighting the epidemic, poor handling of patients and corpses by the affected community members. This work points out the progress made to curb the spread of EVD; diagnosis and treatment of EVD, precautions, health awareness on the epidemic, vaccine trials and polices put in place to stop the spread of Ebola virus disease.

Keywords: Ebola Virus Disease, epidemic, mathematical models, west Africa, data collection, superstitious belief, poor infrastructure, shortage of health workers, border control, vaccine trials, policies, health awareness, diagnosis and treatment
DENGUE NS1 ANTIGEN VS DENGUE VIRUS NUCLEIC ACID: IS THE FORMER A BETTER MARKER IN LATER STAGES OF SEVER DENGUE?

Sirisena PDNN\textsuperscript{1}, Noordeen F\textsuperscript{1} and Fernando LK\textsuperscript{2}

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Centre for Clinical Management of Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever, Negombo- Sri Lanka\textsuperscript{2}

ABSTRACT

Laboratory diagnosis of dengue virus (DENV) infections is done by detecting different viral and immunological markers. Definitive diagnosis of dengue is useful in the timely management of DENV infected patients. Choice of an assay to diagnose DENV infections depends on the longevity of viraemia. Blood samples were collected from 91 patients from Gampaha and Negambo hospitals with a clinical diagnosis of DF or DHF, categorized based on progressive accumulation of fluid in pleural or peritoneal cavities on serial ultrasound scanning. Samples were taken from patients who had fever for a minimum of 3 days to a maximum of 9 days. They were qualitatively tested for dengue NS1 antigen using ELISA. RT-PCR was performed using primers targeting the DENV capsid gene. In patients who had DF, on day 3 PCR positivity on capsid gene targets was 67\% whereas NS1 detection was only 50\%. Patients with DHF PCR positivity was 100\% on day 4 whereas NS1 positivity was only 83\%. However in the DHF group from fever day 5, PCR sensitivity declined, but NS1 positivity remains high even in the latter stages. There was no significant difference in NS1 positivity and WBC counts in both DF and DHF patients whereas platelet counts of the DF and DHF patients showed significant difference (p=\textless0.0001) where the latter had low counts. NS1 is very useful to detect DENV infection even in the latter stages of DHF. Further investigations are in progress to evaluate NS1 as a marker to predict the severity of DF and DHF.

Keywords: Dengue fever, dengue hemorrhagic fever, NS1 antigen, dengue nucleic acid
TNF-α AND IL-2 LEVELS IN DENGUE PATIENTS - CHANGES WITH CLINICAL PROFILES

Thamarasi Senaratne¹, Faseeha Noordeen¹ and Jillian Carr²

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Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, Flinders University, Australia²

ABSTRACT

Dengue virus (DENV) infection is endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of the world including Sri Lanka. The objective of the present study was to assess TNF-α and IL-2 responses in patients with DENV infection with varying clinical severity. A commercially available cytokine ELISA was used to detect TNF-α and IL-2 for 67 confirmed dengue cases (by RT-PCR and serology), 15 healthy controls and 6 blood culture positive typhoid cases. Clinical data was collected with a help of a CDC style questionnaire. A statistical test with P-value <0.05 was considered significant in mean comparison, or in correlation analysis. No significant elevation in TNF-α level was noted between DF and DHF patients but a significant variation was observed in the IL-2 levels between DF and DHF. No significant rise in TNF-α and IL-2 levels was noted with an increase in HCT (>45), thrombocytopenia, leucopenia and PCR positivity. The mean TNF-α and IL-2 values of DF and DHF were higher than that of healthy controls. A positive correlation was observed between the IL-2 and SGOT/SGPT levels. A significant difference was noted in the IL-2 concentrations between DHF and typhoid patients (p=0.005). Moreover, a significant correlation was noted with the disease severity within different grades of DHF. TNF-α level did not show a significant rise with disease severity whereas IL-2 showed a positive correlation with different grades of DHF. Higher levels of IL-2 at the early stages of symptomatic DENV infection might be used as a prognostic marker for the progression to DHF.

Keywords: Dengue, TNF-α, IL-2
SELF-MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS

Mehta RS\textsuperscript{1} and Karki P\textsuperscript{2}

College of Nursing, B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal\textsuperscript{1, 2}

\textbf{ABSTRACT}

The objective of this study was to assess the effects of self-management interventions for adults living with AIDS in improving quality of life and to evaluate the acceptability, practicality, and short-term efficacy of self-management program to improve disease self-management among PLWA. Quasi-experimental research design was used to conduct the study among the adult people living with AIDS on ART drug for more than three months enrolled in B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS) ART clinic. Total 60 PLWA was randomly assigned in to two groups i.e. one educational intervention ($n = 30$) and other control group ($n = 30$). After obtaining baseline information in both the groups using WHO Quality of Life-HIV instrument the planned education intervention programme was implemented in experimental group along with telephone counseling and control group left on usual treatment. Post-test was conducted after six weeks in both the groups and collected data was analyzed. it was found that most of the PLWA were of age group of 26-40 years, male, Hindu and belongs to Sunsari district in both the groups control and experimental. The economic status, co-morbid status and the health problems in both the groups in pre-test were similar. In the mean score QOL there is significant change after education intervention programme in the Physical, Psychological, Social, and Environmental along with overall QOL at 0.05 lever of significance. It can conclude that the planned education intervention programme implemented to improve the QOL of PLW was effective.

\textbf{Keywords:} AIDS, Self-management, Quality of Life
POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG DISASTER VICTIMS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In view of recent catastrophe in Disaster prone Uttarakhand, its poor preparedness and severe outcome in terms of destruction and loss of human lives & property, a study was designed to look into other ‘not too visible’ areas loss in terms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and Health related Quality of Life (H-QOL) of the disaster victims and estimate this burden. Purpose: To estimate magnitude/prevalence of PTSD and assess Health related QOL with potential relationship between variables of PTSD & Health related QOL among the Disaster victims of Sub Himalayan Uttarkhand state of India. Methods: In a cross sectional design, 2667 disaster victims were recruited in the study with key respondents being ‘head of the family’, ‘next to head of the family’, ‘any individual directly injured during Disaster’ aged ≥14 years’ and ‘non alcoholics’. Study instruments used were essentially WHO endorsed PTSD-S and WHOQOL- BREF tools besides a structured, pre-tested instrument to elicit Socio-Demographic data. Results: Nearly half (51%) of Disaster victims were diagnosed with PTSD. Most of the disaster victims were found to be in the same category of ‘neither poor nor good quality of life’ for different aspects of Health except Psychological health which was ‘poor’. The co relational statistics expressed a significant negative relationship between PTSD and Health related QOL of Disaster victims. All the socio demographic and selected variables were significantly associated with the PTSD and QOL scores except the duration of exposure. Conclusion: Disasters have long lasting effect on psychological as well as physical bearing of the Disaster victims. Sensitization and capacity building of both providers & community to pro-actively take appropriate measures in minimizing/mitigating PTSDs and thereby ensure desired QOL are of paramount importance.

Keywords: PTSD, QOL, Disaster victims
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HAIS) IN CANADA AND SCOTLAND

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ABSTRACT

Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) are infections that occurring in patients due to surgical and medical treatment that they received. This is one of major problem in public health related patient safety; HAIs produced significant impact in morbidity and mortality worldwide. It causes death, disability, longer hospital stay, also financial burden not only for patients but also for health-care providers. Several countries have established surveillance program in order to control this infections, for instance Scotland and Canada. Furthermore, understanding description about HAIs epidemiology and description about how surveillance program works in selected country will give insights in terms of HAIs infection control performance. In terms of ensuring this program were conducted effective and efficiently, evaluation of surveillance program is needed. Several elements were assessed to compare surveillance program for HAIs between Scotland (Scottish National Point Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Prescribing) and Canada (Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Programme). This assessment were conducted used Guidelines for Evaluating Surveillance Systems, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Elements for assessment includes: resources, usefulness, simplicity, flexibility, acceptability, data quality, sensitivity, representativeness, and timeliness. Both Scotland and Canada has national HAIs surveillance programme and has some different standard of reporting. Focusing in Canada, surveillance programme were tried to be improved continuously, the collaboration of organizations and data completeness efforts indicates the importance of infections control program. However, the hospitals participation, laboratory testing consideration and operational definition inflexibility need to be noted for further development and improvement.

Keywords: HAI, healthcare associated infections
SPATIAL CLUSTER ANALYSIS OF HUMAN CASES OF CRIMEAN CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER REPORTED IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a tick-borne viral zoonotic disease that has been reported in almost all geographic regions in Pakistan. The aim of this study was to identify spatial clusters of human cases of CCHF reported in country

Methods: Kulldorff’s spatial scan statistic, Anselin’s Local Moran’s I and Getis Ord Gi* tests were applied on data (i.e. number of laboratory confirmed cases reported from each district during year 2013).

Results: The analyses revealed a large multi-district cluster of high CCHF incidence in the uplands of Balochistan province near it border with Afghanistan. The cluster comprised the following districts: Qilla Abdullah; Qilla Saifullah; Loralai, Quetta, Sibi, Chagai, and Mastung. Another cluster was detected in Punjab and included Rawalpindi district and a part of Islamabad. Conclusions: We provide empirical evidence of spatial clustering of human CCHF cases in the country. The districts in the clusters may be targeted for research and healthcare interventions on priority such as public awareness programmes, one health initiative etc. Relevance: Our findings emphasize need to initiate sustained and comprehensive surveillance activities focusing timely detection and disease control strategies in these areas. The location of a cluster close to Afghanistan border highlights the importance of the findings for organizations dealing with the disease at the national, regional and global levels.

Keywords: Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever, Pakistan, spatial autocorrelation, clusters , adjusted cumulative incidence
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROMOTES GREATER EQUITY OF ACCESS TO HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

Social entrepreneurs have played a key role in improving equality of access to health, especially where governments and markets have failed. Social entrepreneurs typically seek to create practical, sustainable and low-cost solutions to daunting problems faced by the poor and underserved, such as sanitation and access to clean water and medicines. In this paper, we examine the varieties of models of social entrepreneurship in health, including innovative for-profit and not-for-profit models. Examples of each of the social entrepreneurial models are presented. Each case is discussed in light of how the model reduces inequities in access to health. These models and examples reflect a set of growing and global trends: the rise of social entrepreneurship; increasing social consciousness among private sector companies some of which have set up their own social entrepreneurial endeavors, as well as the increasing legitimacy and recognition of social entrepreneurship as a distinct form separate from Government, Non-Government and private sectors. The paper concludes with a discussion of the promise of social entrepreneurship in improving equity in access to health. It also identifies what barriers exist and what is needed to achieve the full potential of social entrepreneurship in contributing to equal access to health.

Keywords: social entrepreneurship, low-cost innovation, social innovation, last mile, health access, health delivery
ABSENTEEISM OF DOCTORS IN RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Absenteeism of public servants from their jobs has been long discussed as an impediment to effective public services particularly in South Asia. This study focused on the problem of absenteeism of doctors in rural public health facilities across Bangladesh. Even though the primary purpose of this study was to document the extent of absenteeism, it also made an effort to explore the factors that may be contributing to the problem. Through multi-staged random sampling eight Upazila Health Complexes (UHCs) were selected and unannounced visits were made to record the rate of absenteeism. Both present and absent doctors (on later occasion) were interviewed regarding their personal characteristics and perceptions. Conditions of different facilities of the workplace and work area were also noted accordingly. According to the findings of the study, average rate of absenteeism of doctors in the selected UHCs was 36.44%. Statistically significant determinants of absenteeism were condition of different facilities in the work area like housing facilities, transport facilities, entertainment and communication facilities, work environment, attitude of coworkers and personal characteristics of doctors like sex, background, living place of doctor, place of private practice, motivation to job & to work in rural area and satisfaction about job & salary. Surprisingly this study could not find any statistically significant contribution of remoteness of work area, security of workplace, supervision and personal factors like age, economic status, marital status, monthly income, post-graduation and whether the doctor had children and lived with family (or not) to the absenteeism of doctors.

Keywords: Absenteeism, doctors, rural health facilities
FACTORS INFLUENCING CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS OF SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of this study is to identify staff perceived enablers and barriers affecting Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) programmes in selected government hospitals in Sri Lanka during 2014. This is a descriptive cross-sectional survey of a stratified random sample of staff (medical doctors, nurses and other allied health staff), carried out from June 2014 to December 2014, using a self-administered questionnaire. This study was conducted in sixteen government secondary and tertiary care hospitals in Sri Lanka, where dedicated quality management units have been previously established. Out of a total of 425 staff selected, 378 participants responded to the study. This study identified that monitoring system (mean 3.14±0.71, correlation 0.524), physical structure (mean of 3.23±0.67, correlation 0.462), top management commitment (mean (3.51±0.77, correlation is 0.387) and training (mean of 3.15±0.73 correlation 0.443), as the most important independent variables influencing the CQI programme respectively. Teamwork has the lowest rates (mean 3.05±0.802 correlation 0.227). Type of the hospital has not influenced the implementation of CQI programme. Factors that enable good service delivery will be made public and recommended to service deliverers. CQI activities should be conducted with more emphasis on team work.

Keywords: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Top Management Commitment, Training, Teamwork, Physical Resources, Monitoring System
IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT AMONG HEALTH WORKERS IN TERTIARY HOSPITALS, JOHOR MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Many countries have implemented electronic medical record (EMR) in their healthcare system and Malaysia is not excluded. However, the impact of its implementation is still questionable. The objective of the study is to evaluate the system by looking at the psychological impact among doctors and nurses who were exposed to the system. It was a comparative cross-sectional study, conducted from January 2012 for a period of 5 months in two tertiary hospitals in Johor. One of the hospital practices EMR and the other one is still using manual medical record (MMR) system. Data was collected using self-administered validated Malay version of Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scales-21 items (DASS-21) questionnaire. There were 130 respondents in EMR group and 123 respondents in MMR group (control group). The mean (SD) duration of using EMR was 46.1 (35.83) months. The prevalence of depression, anxiety and stress among EMR group were 6.9%, 25.4% and 12.3% respectively and the figures were not statistically different with the control group. Among EMR group, age (OR 1.10, 95% CI 1.02, 1.19), marital status (OR 3.33, 95% CI 1.10, 10.09) and attending computer course (OR 2.94, 95% CI 0.98, 8.78) were significantly associated with psychological impact either stress or depression. In conclusion, EMR gives significant psychological impact to the user even though it is within a normal range. In long term run, few factors like age, marital status and skill in handling computer need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the system.

Keywords: Electronic Medical Record, psychological aspect, health worker, tertiary hospital, Malaysia
COMMUNITY-BASED ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES: A WAY FORWARD FOR PROVISION OF SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

Inequality has been defined as the presence of systematic and potentially remediable differences among population groups defined socially, economically and geographically¹-². This contributes to gaps in health care provision due to a lack of availability of healthcare services, financial accessibility, and cultural acceptance³. There is an increase in non-communicable diseases contributing to the burden on healthcare, including obesity, ischemic heart disease and diabetes. However, it imposes a greater impact on the poor and those who are geographically isolated due to limited health care provision; there has been migration from rural to urban areas for better health access⁴-⁷. We propose the implementation of Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) in the community in an attempt to bridge these gaps in rural areas. An APN is a specialty-specific registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base and clinical competencies for extended practice⁸-⁹. In the developing world, APN training is still in its infancy. Evidence has proven that the care provided by specialized nurses results in higher patient satisfaction, greater access to health care, improved outcomes and cost effectiveness⁸. APNs compliment the care provided by physicians; reducing doctors’ workload, patient waiting times and providing care in the convenience of their homes¹⁰. Modeled on Australian and Norwegian systems, APNs are recruited directly from rural communities, having a better understanding of the population, and access to the local cultural norms, such as traditional healers¹¹-¹². This provides a solution for access by negating isolation from family, transport and communication difficulties. To succeed in improving health care outcomes by APNs, the availability of evidence based practice, audits, guidelines; access to specialist care at hospitals and continuous medical education is essential.

Keywords: developing countries, sustainable, community advanced practice nurses
HEALTH FINANCING IN THE NEW COOPERATIVE MEDICAL SCHEME: DO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES INCREASE WILLINGNESS-TO-PAY?

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ABSTRACT

The New Cooperative Medical Scheme (NCMS) has been established in 2009 in China aiming to provide financial protection for the rural while they consume health care services. In the past decades (2003-2013), the rapid growth of the NCMS-fund heavily depends on increased subsidies, rather than enrollees’ contribution. The demand for financing sustainability of the NCMS triggered a debate on whether it is possible to increase the Willingness-to-Pay (WTP) of the rural. The objectives of this study, therefore, were to explore variation in Willingness-to-Pay (WTP) of the rural under different subsidies, and investigate the factors which affecting their contribution decision. The survey is conducted in 5 counties in Sichuan province in 2013. A multi-stage random process was used to draw 366 households and 1,554 individuals. Data on WTP are collected using Contingent valuation survey (CV) and a double-bounded dichotomous choice setting is designed to elicit respondents’ WTP. Cox proportional hazard model is applied to investigate the determinants. Results indicate that family size, household income, premium and protection level, and recognition of individual contribution are significantly relative to the WTP. In particular, recognition on the role of the NCMS can increase around 50% of WTP. On average, when the subsidies increase from 240 to 420 RMB, the WTP grows from 55.04 to 81.92 RMB. 65.8% rural residents would like to increase their WTP as subsidies go up, although the level of growth varying in different sites. Individual contributions still have space for growth, and it closely relative to the protection role of the NCMS. The variation of WTP in different site indicates that a multi-level financing criterion would be more suitable.

Keywords: the NCMS, Governments’ subsidy, WTP, Contingent valuation, Cox model
“m” TECHNOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH: AN INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK IN RESOURCE POOR SETTINGS OF AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Developing countries have documented outbreaks of various infectious diseases including jaundice (HEV). HEV is transmitted through feco-oral route. Ahmedabad is city located in Gujarat state which is in western part of India; it has reported an outbreak of HEV in November 2014. We investigated the outbreak based on m-technology with an aim to develop and test m-technology to assist in disease surveillance, recognize early warning signals and identify HOT SPOTS of outbreak. All cases of HEV reported by the system and applying snow ball sampling, 218 cases were investigated. Data was collected in Open Data Kit (ODK) installed in android based application having Google interface. Data on signs and symptoms of disease, time of investigation, diagnosis, hospitalization, co-morbidities etc. were gathered. Descriptive analysis revealed secondary attack rate ranged from 12.5% to 75%. Male were affected more in young age groups while it was reverse in later age groups. The outbreak pattern suggested point source single exposure outbreak. Hot spots and clustering of cases were identified by geo visualization to assist in targeted interventions. “m technology” can provide quick quality data and can assist in prediction of further outbreaks. Spatial analysis of hot spots and clustering of cases by m-technology can be a promising tool for monitoring and surveillance of routine data and can assist in investigation of outbreaks.

Keywords: Hepatitis E, m technology, Outbreak investigation and GIS mapping.
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM: EQUITY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HEALTH EVALUATION IN NSW, AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Historically, drinking water and sewerage services for many remote Australian Aboriginal communities have not met the basic standards expected by the wider population. The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program commenced in New South Wales (NSW), Australia in 2008. The Program aims to improve the operation, monitoring and maintenance of water supply and sewerage in more than 60 discrete Aboriginal communities in NSW. The program includes the implementation of risk-based water and sewerage management plans, which reduce the likelihood of illness and outbreaks by assessing risks and establishing robust preventive measures. Despite the international evidence supporting the relationship between water, sanitation and health, there are little available data that explores the Australian context, and in particular the experience in remote Aboriginal communities. The health outcomes evaluation seeks to examine the association between health outcomes and improvements in operation, maintenance and monitoring of water and sewerage systems in Aboriginal communities in NSW and to further develop this evidence base. This presentation outlines the achievements of the Program and the process for engaging with Aboriginal communities to undertake an evaluation of the health impacts of the Program. Although the evaluation is yet to be conducted, a detailed look at the epidemiological study design will be provided. This will include an outline of the step wedge design and the data sources (including routinely collected Hospital and Medicare data) that will be linked and analyzed to examine changes in community health status.

Keywords: Aboriginal communities, water and sewerage, health equity, community engagement, health evaluation, epidemiological study design
ASSESSMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FINAL TREATMENT IN SHENDI TOWN, RIVER NILE STATE SUDAN

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

Background: This paper reports the finding of community based cross sectional study conducted to assess solid waste management final treatment in Shendi city, in order to regulate the services of solid waste management in the city. Specifically it aims to know methods used to dispose solid waste in Shendi city, determine options to be deal with when there is absence of locality truck, and determine the potential impact which might be associated with condition of this waste. Methods: Multistage stratified system of proportional allocation sampling was followed to select the samples units from the households. Questionnaire, observations and interviews were used with household to collect the data of this study. Data was analyzed using computer using both Microsoft Excel and Statistic Package for Social Sciences program (SPSS). Results: The main results showed that Most of the population depend on locality trucks for their solid waste transportation (54%), while 26% transported their solid waste by cart, beside 17% of them used other options including left on street, drains and burns. The study also revealed several ideas towards improvement of solid waste management where 28% of the population believes that they need new concept, while 24% think that they can improve it via giving attention to solid waste management, while the opinion of 20% of them to form new independent body, beside, 18% requested to share with private sectors Conclusions: The study conclude that population know that an open burning is the dominant method used in final disposal site in the study area creating health problems, that it may provide breeding sites for insect and it can cause a risk to public health.

\textbf{Keywords:} Solid waste, final treatment, Potential Impact, Shendi
CHUNNAKAM POWER PLANT: IS IT A POINT SOURCE OF OIL CONTAMINATION OF WELLS?

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ABSTRACT

Wells in Chunnakam at Jaffna District are reported to have been contaminated by oil. Effluents from Chunnakam Power Plant (CPP) have been suspected as the source of this pollution. Objective of this study was to determine whether the CPP could be a point source for this contamination. The secondary data presented in the report of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB, Jaffna) was used in this analysis. Two by two tables were developed by calculating the number above or below the Maximum Permissible Limit (MPL) using the above data. The Chi Square Statistic ($X^2$) with p value of 0.05 between different zones was calculated. Results showed that for the zones within 200m and 200m to 500m, $X^2$ was 1.407 (p=0.05896). For the zones 200m to 500m and 500m to 2000m, $X^2$ was 4.525 (p=0.01671). It was concluded that the percentage of well exceeding the PML has shown a decrease with the distance from the CPP. There was no statistical significance between the proportion of wells exceeding MPL between within 200m and 200-500m. This may be due to within 200m and 200m-500m zones being equally contaminated or being saturated. There was statistically significant decrease of number of wells with more than MPL from 200m-500m to 500m-2000m zones. The level of oil contamination appears to be uniform up to 500m from the CPP. However, this appears to be decreasing from there onwards up to 2000m. This analysis favors a point source of contamination to be located within the CPP area.

Keywords: Oil, contamination, Chunnakam, Power Plant, point source
RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR LEPTOSPIROSIS AMONG TOWN SERVICE WORKERS IN A NORTHEASTERN STATE OF MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is presumed to be the most widespread re-emerging zoonotic disease globally. In terms of occupational hazards, town service workers are risk groups resulting from their occupational activities in solid waste management in every step of the waste management process. The aim of this study was to determine the risk and protective factors of leptospirosis among town service workers in Kelantan state in Malaysia. A cross sectional study was carried out among town service workers from four municipal councils. All sera samples were tested for presence of anti-leptospiral antibodies using Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) followed by microscopic agglutination test (MAT). Eighty-two serum samples from 321 subjects were positive for MAT (seroprevalence rate of 25.5%). Multiple logistic regression analysis showed overtime work (adj. OR 2.13 95%CI 1.19, 3.84), contact with animal while working (adj. OR 2.09 95%CI 1.06, 4.11), sighting of rats at worksite (adj. OR 2.17 95%CI 1.11, 4.25) and live less than 200 meters from river (adj. OR 1.84 95%CI 1.03, 3.28) were the risk factors for leptospiral infection while age (adj. OR 0.95, 95%CI 0.93, 0.98), wearing boots while working (adj. OR 0.44 95%CI 0.25, 0.80) and washing hands with soap after work (adj. OR 0.20 95%CI 0.10, 0.42) were identified as the protective factors. There were close relationship between leptospirosis seropositivity among town service workers occupational hazards and environmental factors. Prevention and control strategies for leptospirosis need to focus on sources of transmission of leptospirosis and high risk activities at workplace.

Keywords: leptospirosis, town service workers, seroprevalence, risk
ABSTRACT

With the MDG’s set to expire this year (2015), the recent achievements in the progress of child health indicators in India has failed to distribute the fruits of the development evenly among the States and also within states; as in one State performing well in one indicator and not in another indicator. This paper focuses on the malnutrition indicators of children in India namely stunting, underweight and wasting. The objective is to identify the predictors of child under nutrition and to analyze the differences in the impact of determinants across the three indicators and between States. With NFHS-3, the SUR technique is used to improve the efficiency of regression estimates where in one hand the errors in individual height for age and weight for age and weight for height is likely to be correlated (contemporaneous correlation) and on the other hand other household level omitted variables for a child belonging to the same household could also be correlated. Among the regresses, age, birth order, birth size, gender, mother BMI are all significant for all the three anthropometric indicators and diarrhea, fever and cough are significant for underweight and vaccination is significant for wasting. In India, the performance of these indicators varies because of the influence of the regional factors and also because of the major variations in wealth status, caste and religion. Since nutrition depends on various factors, the linkage of nutrition with sanitation policies, environment policies, agriculture related policies and infrastructure is extremely needed to address under-nutrition.

Keywords: Child under-nutrition stunting, underweight, wasting, seemingly unrelated Regression, India.
HOW CONCERN WORLDWIDE ADDRESSES TO IMPROVE THE DIETARY DIVERSITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SELECTED SQUATTERS OF DHAKA, BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh is implementing household food security (HHFS) component under ‘Integrated Urban Nutrition Project’ from 2012-2015 targeting selected urban squatters in Dhaka. The HHFS component intends to improve the dietary diversity of women and children by involving women into income generation activities (IGA) through improving household income. Baseline (BL) information was collected in March 2013 to understand the average family income, assets value, savings and food consumption pattern of children and women who participated in IGA. Midterm (MT) data was collected from 250 IGA participants in September 2014. Comparing to BL, on an average 21% of income has been increased in MT. Asset value improved from 57,323 BDT to 59,552 BDT and family saving has been risen up to 15% in MT from BL. Out of twelve food groups, 23.4% of women consumed at least five food groups in BL; the percentage increased to 53.6% in MT. During MT 30.1% of children aged 6 to 23 months consumed at least four food groups, out of seven, which was 26.6% in BL. Individual counseling and group counseling on basic nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding practices are introduced into micro business development and skill trainings. Weekly nutrition education sessions have been conducted with IGA participants. Besides, different health and nutrition awareness raising activities at community level are initiated to improve food security situation in squatter areas.

Keywords: Household income, Dietary diversity, Women and children
PEOPLE’S HEALTH IS COUNTRY HEALTH: EXPLORING THE FACTORS WHY PEOPLE NOT ENGAGING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Healthy workforce can substantially achieve national goals of any country, however in Pakistan people are inactive due to overweight and obesity which is on rise with alarming rate. Evidence also suggested that physically inactive communities are suffered more from colon cancer and heart related diseases. There is need to work on this issue on war footings basis to save current and future generations of Pakistan. Keeping in mind the issues, this qualitative and exploratory approach using interpretivist paradigm, investigated and explores the factors about; why youth is not actively participating in physical activity? Data has been collected using in-depth interview, Focus-group discussions (FGDs), observations and comments from social media using “Facebook” based on the suggestion by QSR-International (2012). The qualitative data drawn were analyzed using NVIVO 10 software and different reasons amongst Pakistani youth who were not participating in physical activities were identified. Furthermore these factors grouped into social and psychological problems. These finding suggests for policy makers, public health professionals and social marketing to pay more attentions to identified factors while devising social communication and other public health interventions.

Keywords: physical activity, inactive, NVIVO, social, psychological problems, social marketing, Interpretivist paradigm
INTEGRATED CARE TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO HEALTHCARE: A CASE IN SINGAPORE

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ABSTRACT

Singapore’s population is rapidly ageing. Patients with chronic diseases are largely managed by secondary care providers but if this continues, hospitals will run out of capacity¹. Earlier efforts to transfer care from hospitals to community settings, i.e. primary care providers were hampered by lack of confidence and capacity in community-based providers to treat chronic disease patients². Newer initiatives argue for care integration between hospital and primary care, instead of simply discharging care to community-based providers³. This paper examines an integrated care programme in Singapore which was enabled by partnership between a public hospital and a private clinic. This closer working relationship is thought to bring about a win-win situation: hospital care is freed up for patients who truly need it; and primary care is strengthened by having direct support from the hospital. An evaluation was conducted to identify challenges faced by this partnership when balancing capacity and accessibility. Mixed-methods (questionnaire survey followed by in-depth interviews) were used to collect data from 30 frontline healthcare workers and 14 leaders or managers. The results indicated that this arrangement was seen as a winning one for the hospital, but it remained questionable whether it benefited the primary care partner. Hospital-centrism was found in the structure of the partnership and in organizational operations and systems. The inequality in power and resources has put a strain on true partnership. It is proposed that sustainable integrated care for chronic diseases will require shifts in thinking, in resource allocation, in policy and in medical education.

Keywords: accessibility, chronic disease, partnership, hospital centrism
QUALITY OF DRUGS: MYTH OR REALITY?

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ABSTRACT

India’s paradigm shift in GDP growth is facing unparalleled threat because of her rising health problems. Indian suffers from dual problems of both non-infectious but life-style related diseases along with chronic infectious diseases too. On the contrary India in spite of being one of the leading producers in life-saving and quality generic medicines, having over 350 drug producing units that are endorsed as Good Manufacturing Practices compliant by the European Union, majority of the Indians suffer from poor accessibility to required medicines. Inaccessibility to medicines is due to its exorbitant prices and that due to quality adherence as claimed to be of branded mark in the market. Such circumstance has led to greater private and out-of-pocket expenditure in recent years and has further aided in widening disparities in care and social equity. It is ironic that India emerging as “the pharmacy of globe,” around 50 to 60 percent of the people do not have accessibility to essential medicines. It is also paradox that prescribers’ biasness towards branded medicines of major pharmaceutical giants has been aided with mistaken belief of people for branded drugs as complier of good quality only and has further compounded the problem of in-affordability. The present study has tried to explore the myth of quality that exists in the name of branded drugs through examination of quality of the major essential drugs, where both branded and non-branded medicines have been tested to unearth the notion of brand-price-quality equation.

Keywords: quality, brands, prices, inaccessibility, diseases
INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM OF COPING WITH HOMELESSNESS IN POLAND

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ABSTRACT

In postmodern conditions, social, medical and health sciences focus on problems of homeless people. It is important to provide them with social benefits and health care. The aim of the research was to define former social and medical support to homeless people, their health conditions and instruct them how to improve their life quality. To conduct the research a questionnaire form and survey among homeless people and health service were used. The research was carried out among 287 homeless people in the Świętokrzyskie region in 2014. The results were analysed using SPSS/PC statistical package. Among respondents men (61.9%) and individuals being homeless 1 to 5 years (45.1%) prevailed. Nearly half the homeless people want to cope with homelessness; however ¼ of them express their indecisiveness towards this decision. Problems of respondents are: lack of shelter, loneliness and deteriorating health condition, 2/3 of homeless people suffer from gastric problems, skin diseases, cardiovascular diseases, mental illnesses, alcohol and drug addictions. So far they have received social assistance (flat, benefits, shelter in dosshouses) – 56.6% and medical assistance – 23.5%. Only 35.6% of individuals in the subject region were provided with an individual program of coping with homelessness. Majority of respondents expect medical assistance, social and psychological support from government, municipal authorities and non-governmental organizations. Legal decisions and health insurance can guarantee actions in this regard. Extended actions of social and medical services which support more homeless individuals should be encouraged.

Keywords: homelessness, health care, social benefits, coping with homelessness program
EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION OF KNOWLEDGE ON SAFE ABORTION SERVICES AMONG REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP WOMEN INVOLVING IN FORWARD MICROFINANCE PROJECT IN DHARAN, NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

Each year, 75 million of women worldwide experience unwanted pregnancy. Forty-six million women around the world have induced abortion every year, 78% of whom live in the developing world. Where abortion is legally permitted, complications are rare. The objective was to assess effectiveness of educational intervention on knowledge regarding safe abortion services. Pre-experimental design was adopted. Those reproductive aged women involved the microfinance was included as a population and sample size was forty. Purposive sampling technique adopted. Consent was taken from IERB/BPKIHS and informed consent was obtained from respondents. Data were collected by pretest interview and educational intervention was administered and posttest was taken and data was analysis by using SPSS 15 and interpret the pretest and posttest knowledge. The study reveals that (58%) of the respondents had knowledge about abortion in pretest whereas 93% after education, similarly knowledge about prohibition of abortion law (45%) pretest (91%) in post test.(55%) listed sites for safe abortion in pretest (95.6%) posttest, familiarity of logo (48%) in pretest (100%) in posttest. The difference in knowledge between pre-test and post-test were found to be significant (p<0.001).Similarly, knowledge regarding safe abortion services was found to be 12(6-21) and 29.5(22.25-32) in pretest and posttest respectively. The difference was found to be significant (p<0.05). The study finding concluded that the educational intervention was effective in increasing the knowledge of women regarding safe abortion services. It is recommended to conduct educational training to create awareness and help to reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity due to unsafe abortion.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Educational Intervention, Knowledge, Safe Abortion Services, Reproductive Age group
PREVALENCE AND PATTERN OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG AUTO RICKSHAW DRIVERS OF MUMBAI - INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Psychoactive substance use poses a threat to the health, social and economic fabric of families. In Mumbai there are around 2.5 lac auto rickshaws which are simply called auto. Very few auto are driven by locals and most of the auto drives belong to north Indian states especially Bihar and UP and lives in force bachelorhood. The objective of the study was to study the prevalence and pattern of substance use among these auto drivers of Mumbai, the psycho-social behavior of auto drivers, perceived reasons for using substances. A Cross-sectional community based study done from January – April 2014. With the consideration of 95% Confidence level and 5% permissible error the sample size with the present population of rickshaw drivers came out to be 384. Prevalence of substance use was seen in 72.9% drivers belonging to age group 23 to 51 years. More prevalence of substance use was found among those who are staying there for more than 5 years in Mumbai (76.5%). Among the users alcohol was most commonly used (78.3%), followed by smokers (69.2%), tobacco chewers (68.2%), cannabis (39.8%). It is also noted that 81.7% of the users were using substances on daily basis, followed by 76.5% who using weekly. Relief from psychological stress (92.4%), physical stress (89.3%) followed by easy availability (86.9%) were the most common reasons of substance abuse. Therefore, interventions in terms of health education/counseling for reducing substance use among them should be adopted, irrespective of their socio-demographic characteristics.

Keywords: Substance use, Prevalence, Auto rickshaw, Psychoactive, Stress
PREVALENCE, PATTERN AND CORRELATES OF TOBACCO USE AMONG
MALE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN KERALA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Kerala is the most advanced Indian State in epidemiological transition. It has the highest prevalence of most of the non-communicable diseases and their risk factors such as tobacco use, alcohol use, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet. We studied the prevalence, pattern and correlates of tobacco use among industrial workers in Kerala. We selected 1632 male workers (mean age 46 years) from major industries of two southern most districts of Kerala state for the study. Information on tobacco use, alcohol use, socioeconomic status (SES) and education status was collected using a pre-tested structured interview schedule. We did multiple logistic regression analysis to find the correlates of tobacco use. The prevalence of current tobacco use was 32.2 % (CI: 29.9-34.4). Exclusive smoking was 18%, smokeless tobacco use was 8.6% and 5.6% used both forms of tobacco. Those who consumed alcohol were four times [Odds Ratio (OR) 3.73 CI 2.94-4.72] workers who belonged to the low SES were two times (OR 1.57; CI 1.17-2.11) and those who were less educated (OR 1.35 CI 1.00-1.83) were more likely to use tobacco compared to their counterparts in age adjusted analysis. In spite of very aggressive tobacco control measures in the State tobacco use prevalence in this population was still high. Measures for the prevention and control of tobacco use are essential in this population focusing on those who use alcohol, those who belong to low SES and less educated in this population.

Keywords: tobacco use, prevalence, correlates, industrial workers, Kerala, India
PREVALENCE, CORRELATES AND BINGE DRINKING AMONG MALE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN KERALA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Kerala state was reported to have the highest prevalence of alcohol consumption among the major Indian States. Alcohol consumption in India is predominantly a male habit. We studied the prevalence, correlates and binge drinking among industrial workers in Kerala. We selected 1632 male workers (mean age 46 years) from major industries of two southern most districts of Kerala state for the study. Information on alcohol use in the previous month, basic demographics, tobacco use, socioeconomic status and education status was collected using a pre-tested structured interview schedule. Binge drinking was defined as five or more standard drinks per day. We did multiple logistic regression analysis to find the correlates of alcohol use. The prevalence of current alcohol use was 43.4% (95% CI: 41.0-45.8). Of the current drinkers, 16.3% (CI: 13.3-19.3) were binge drinkers. Current tobacco users were four times [Odds Ratio (OR) 3.73 CI 2.94-4.72] more likely to consume alcohol compared to non-users of tobacco after adjusting for age, socio economic status and education. Alcohol consumption including binge drinking was high in this population. Measures need to be taken to control alcohol consumption focusing on tobacco users. It might be useful to offer de-addiction services to the binge drinkers.

Keywords: alcohol use, binge drinking, industrial workers, Kerala, India
NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF PAVEMENT DWELLERS CHILDREN IN SELECTED WARDS OF DHAKA, BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Bangladesh is experiencing rapid urbanization. A large proportion of poor migrants often settle on the streets of major cities and towns. Concern Worldwide works with 14,000 extremely poor people living on pavement to ensure the fundamental rights for. Women, men and children aged 24 to 71 months living on pavement are the target groups. The purpose of the study is to assess the nutritional status of children living on the pavements. In total 114 pavement dwellers children were chosen by simple random sampling for nutritional assessment. Children were picked up from railway station, bus terminal, Public Park, market place etc. Selected children’s age, height and weight were collected and analyzed in August 2014. Comparing with National figure malnutrition rate was found to be higher among the children living in pavement. In total 63% of children were underweight (< -2 WAZ) and 62% were stunted (< -2 WHZ) whereas Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2011 data stand for 36% and 41% respectively. Out of 114 children, 7% were severely underweight (< -3 WAZ) and 20% were severely stunted (< -3 WHZ). Since malnutrition is associated with more than half of all deaths of children aged 6-59 months and leads to longer and more severe illnesses via an impaired immune system, delayed motor and cognitive development therefore these findings have an important implication for Concern Worldwide to intrude nutritional intervention in different project focus on pavement population.

Keywords: Nutritional status, Pavement children, Dhaka, Bangladesh
HAVING CONTACT IN CELL AND PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN DRUG USER’S PRISON, JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2013

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ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis is one of crucial health problem in Indonesia. It can make people who affected with it dead. One of high risk population of tuberculosis is prisoners. Recent researches show that prevalence of tuberculosis in Prison is higher than in the public. One of the reasons is having contact in cell with patient tuberculosis. This research then comes to find the relationship of having contact in cell with patient of tuberculosis and pulmonary tuberculosis in Drug User’s Prison. The research was done with cross-sectional design with 241 samples of prisoners who registered on 2013 and still is in Drug User’s Prison. It found that 6.2% respondents were had pulmonary tuberculosis. Based on bivariate analysis, the research also found that prevalence ratio of the relationship between having contact in cell with patient of tuberculosis and pulmonary tuberculosis is 7.2 (95% CI: 2.092-24.848). So, there are relationships between having contact in cell with patient of tuberculosis with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Keywords: tuberculosis, contact in cell, prison
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER IN INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT AT DR. CIPTO MANGUNKUSUMO HOSPITAL JAKARTA 2011-2012

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

Lung cancer is one of the highest incidence and mortality due to of cancer and the risk factors unknown certainly. There is increasing lung cancer cases from 124 to 141 cases during 2011-2012 at Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital (RSCM) Jakarta. This study aims to determine association between smoking and lung cancer in Inpatient and Outpatient. This study was case-control study with 75 cases and 75 controls. The study case was patients who are undergoing inpatient and outpatient at pulmonology RSCM Jakarta 2011-2012 and diagnosed with lung cancer. The study control were patients who are undergoing inpatient and outpatient at pulmonology RSCM and not diagnosed with lung cancer according to ICD 10 code recorded in the medical record. Result of bivariate analysis showed association between smoking status (OR 3.19, 95% CI = 1.63 to 2.23), number of cigarette smoked (OR 7.62, 95% CI = 2.00 to 28.97), and duration of smoking (OR 3.87, 95% CI = 1.89 to 7.91) with lung cancer. It could be concluded smoking status, number of cigarette smoked and duration of smoking were strong related to lung cancer case.

\textbf{Keywords:} lung cancer, smoking, inpatient, outpatient
ASSESSING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND BARRIERS TO IMPROVEMENT IN IRAQ

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ABSTRACT

The improvement of maternal and child health in Iraq rests largely on primary health care (PHC) services. Previous research has shown the extent of reliance on primary health care centers (PHCCs), particularly by the poorer members of society. In this study, PHCCs were the preferred choice for child health care by the largest number of persons. The aim of this study was to assess the quality of health services provided to mothers and children in selected health facilities in Iraq. Six research sub-questions were investigated by assessing the performance of health workers, recording the experience and satisfaction of the patient with the facility visit just completed, and measuring the knowledge of the patient or the caretaker of the patient about common health issues. The questionnaires used standard established and validated questions which supported the research questions. Patients were observed in 62 PHCCs randomly chosen from each of the districts in 8 governorates with two sets of PHCCs selected for Baghdad. For the child health component, 10 consultations were observed and 10 caretakers were interviewed at each health facility. While overall satisfaction was high, this survey highlighted a range of areas where IMCI, ANC and postnatal care can be improved. Communication seemed to be a large weakness in many areas of exchange between the provider and the patient or caretaker. Availability and use of medication represented a weakness in the clinics. Additionally, medications were not always available at the clinic, leaving the patient/caretaker needing to go elsewhere.

Keywords: Iraq, maternal and child health, maternal health, child health, primary health care
PREDICTING THE INTENDED AND ACTUAL DURATION OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AMONG MOTHERS IN TWO DISTRICTS IN KELANTAN, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The global and national recommendations promote exclusive breastfeeding but many mothers do not practice it. Objectives: This study aims to identify the predictors of the intended and actual duration of exclusive breastfeeding among mothers in Kota Bharu and Pasir Mas districts, by utilizing the extended Theory of Planned Behaviour. Methods: A prospective cohort study was conducted among pregnant mothers who were selected through two-stage cluster sampling. At baseline, the information on their intended duration to practice exclusive breastfeeding, attitude, perceived norm, perceived behavioural control and past exclusive breastfeeding behaviour were obtained through interviewer-guided questionnaire. The first follow-up at one month after delivery was conducted to determine their postpartum support and breastfeeding difficulty. The second follow-up at six months after delivery provided information on the mothers’ actual duration of exclusive breastfeeding. Two hierarchical regression analyses were conducted. Results: The median intended and actual exclusive breastfeeding duration of 200 mothers were 4.0 (IQR 5) months and 1.0 (IQR 4) month, respectively. The extended Theory of Planned Behaviour explained 51.0% of the variance in the intended duration, with perceived behavioural control and attitude were the significant predictors. It also explained 16.2% of the variance in the actual duration, with intention, postpartum support and breastfeeding difficulty were the significant predictors. Conclusion/Implications: Improving the mother’s perceived behavioural control and attitude may improve their intended duration, which subsequently improves their actual duration of exclusive breastfeeding. In addition, receiving correct postpartum support and skills to handle breastfeeding difficulties will also improve their actual exclusive breastfeeding duration.

Keywords: exclusive breastfeeding, Theory of Planned Behaviour, intended duration, actual duration, postpartum support, breastfeeding difficulty
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH UNDERUTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE IN WESTERN NEPAL: A COMMUNITY BASED CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Improving maternal health is one of the goals of the Millennium Development Goals committed to meet by 2015 by the international community and government of Nepal. Due to the importance of antenatal care (ANC) in reducing maternal and neonatal deaths, government has identified safe motherhood program as priority intervention. The government guideline has also specified four focused antenatal visits as a major intervention for the better outcome of pregnancy and new born, but the underutilization of four ANC visit is one of the major issues. Community based cross sectional survey was conducted in three districts of western part of Nepal to find the factors associated with underutilization of four ANC. Nine hundred mothers with under two years children were selected randomly based on the lot quality assurance sampling techniques and interviewed using structured questionnaire. The result showed that more than 91% had at least one ANC checkup during their last pregnancy but only 45.5% mothers had 4 ANC with 55.5% reported underutilization of ANC. The multiple logistic regressions shows that mother from rural locality, from nuclear family, with no education or attained below secondary level education, did not have knowledge on danger signs during pregnancy had higher chance of underutilization of ANC services. The study suggested to concerned stakeholders to focus their activities on proper counseling and providing information on danger signs of pregnancy to pregnant mother residing in rural locality, and living in nuclear family and lower educational level.

Keywords: Prenatal Care, Antenatal Care, Far-west Nepal, Pregnant women, Utilization, factors, Associated, Developing Country
DETERMINANTS OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRACTICE AMONG UNMARRIED WOMEN IN TALOD TALUKA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

One of the many goals of MDGs, focuses on optimal Menstrual hygiene practices (MHP), but MHP are largely not addressed in India due to various social, cultural and other issues. Present study documents the knowledge, practices and sources of information regarding menstruation and hygiene in rural Taluka of Gujarat. 630 adolescent and young females, stratified on status of schooling and age participated in the study. Majority (65%) were aware about menstruation prior to menarche, with mothers being the commonest source of information regarding MHP. Only 1.27% of the respondents were using sanitary napkins whereas 74% were using locally made absorbent cloth and were practicing re–use for more than one cycle. More than 80% participants practiced drying absorbent in sunlight which possibly might minimize the probability reproductive tract infections. Practice of using safe sanitary napkin was least amongst in 15-18 Out of school girls (<1%). Presence of in house toilet facility was facilitator for optimal MHP. With recently launched RKSK and Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, more efforts are required to equip the adolescent girls with knowledge regarding safe menstrual hygienic practices so as to enable them lead healthy reproductive life.

Keywords: Adolescent females, menarche, menstruation, hygiene
NEW STRATEGIES ARE NEEDED TO PREVENT MATERNAL SEPSIS

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ABSTRACT

Maternal sepsis accounts for 11% of maternal mortality worldwide. Despite global and national recognition of the problem, limited research or programming has been done in this area, and stark differences exist between prevention strategies in developed and developing country settings. In developed countries, prolonged labor is generally understood to be a significant contributor to maternal sepsis. In low and middle income countries, however, maternal hygiene or hand hygiene is thought to be the dominant precipitator. We conducted a review of the literature to understand the evidence base for current interventions for prevention of maternal sepsis. Fifty-one studies were identified that referenced interventions to prevent maternal or newborn sepsis; 27 met criteria for review. Only nine studied a developing country context. Eleven linked prolonged labor or prolonged rupture of membranes to maternal sepsis. Hand washing by TBAs and chlorhexidine vaginal douching were found ineffective. A further survey of 20 developing countries showed that national guidelines on infection prevention are generally accurate, but prevention of prolonged labor is rarely mentioned as a strategy to reduce sepsis. Direct observation of birthing practices in six countries found that providers washed their hands 40% of the time before conducting labor examinations. Progress has been made in reducing mortality from postpartum hemorrhage and pre-eclampsia. With the global emphasis on facility births, interventions - whether appropriate or not - have the potential to increase. The almost exclusive focus on hand hygiene and the relative absence of attention to prolonged labor, for the prevention of maternal and newborn sepsis is unlikely to achieve the desired result. The evidence base for sepsis prevention practices in labor is weak and there is an urgent need for additional research to guide development of appropriate interventions for mortality reduction.

Keywords: maternal, sepsis, prolonged labor, hand hygiene
RECORDING AND REPORTING OF MATERNAL DEATHS IN IRAQ

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ABSTRACT

Iraq’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) was estimated to be 291/100,000 live births in 1999 and 63/100,000 in 2012, a 78% decrease. Iraq’s Ministry of Health has undertaken a number of steps to reduce maternal mortality, and the impact needs to be measured. This operational study was carried out in 14 hospitals throughout Iraq. The study had three research objectives: 1) examine potential misclassification of maternal deaths in the selected hospitals; 2) examine the nature of deaths reported from the community directly to the forensic medicine unit and the judicial system that issues death certificates for community deaths; and 3) compare the maternal deaths recorded at the governorate’s Directorate of Health (DOH) death office against maternal deaths reported from the hospitals and forensic medicine units. Misclassification of maternal death by hospitals was 22.8%. After reviewing records of the forensic medicine units and judicial offices, specific causes of death were missing from 27.8% of records. It was determined that all maternal deaths recorded by hospitals and forensic medicine units were incorporated into records at the DOH death office, however, DOH records were of poorer quality than those recorded at the hospital for the same patients as details were lost. Recommendations include: 1) improve record keeping, with measures to capture the maternal deaths more accurately by hospitals and forensic medicine units; 2) improve hospital procedures and processes; and 3) establish a system of active tracking of maternal deaths to propose measures which would minimize maternal deaths in hospitals and in the community.

Keywords: maternal mortality, maternal deaths, Iraq, death reporting
ABSTRACT

Background; Indonesia is facing a failure in achieving its Millennium Development Goals on reducing maternal mortality rate. Birth Plan Initiative and Complications Prevention program using stickers which is a ground-breaking effort from national government isn’t effective in reducing maternal mortality cases. Thus, this study evaluated the field application of the program in Bantul, Indonesia, in 2014. Methods; This study evaluated input, process, output, and outcome by involving two primary health clinics (PHCs), PHC Banguntapan 3 and PHC Banguntapan 2. PHC program managers were interviewed to explore the barriers and observe the data in PHC. All of pregnant women in third trimester were visited to determine their knowledge and practice during this program. Supporting system consisted of blood donors, ambulance, and communities funding was assessed by interviewing local leaders. Results; Both PHC did not have sufficient input. Process which is consist of planning, organizing, and controlling were not conducted optimally. From a total of 50 pregnant women, 12% can answer correctly about pregnancy complication. Supporting system in communities was not available. As an output, sticker’s coverage was 85% in PHC Banguntapan 3 and 100% in PHC Banguntapan 2. However, coverage of obstetric complication handling in both PHC did not reach the target (65%). Conclusions; Birth plan initiative and complication prevention program using stickers did not work in two PHC. Thus, systematic careful planning should be considered when create a program. Further, national government should conduct a study about acceptance program that can be a possible reason for the program failure.

Keywords; maternal mortality, complication, obstetric labor, Indonesia
FACTORS INFLUENCING BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROVISION BY VILLAGE DOCTORS IN RURAL CHINA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To explore factors influencing the provision of basic public health services (BPHS) consisted of eleven service categories by village doctors in rural China. Methods: A multistage cluster sampling method was used to select village doctors in Hubei Province, China. Questionnaires addressing questions on village doctors’ participation in the provision of BPHS, the difficulties and influencing factors of the BPHS provision were administered to 2008 village doctors during March to November, 2013. Results: Of 2008 village doctors, 72.7% were female, 33.4% were 50 years old or older, 72.3% were at the High school/vocational high school level. More than 70% of village doctors delivered nine of BPHS, but “vaccination” and “health administrative oversight” were only provided by 58.4% and 49.8% of them, respectively. More than half of village doctors spent 2 to 3 hours providing BPHS every day. Female village doctors were found to spent more time than male (X²=10.00, P=0.019). “Mental health” “health management for the elderly” and “health management for children up to six years of age” was reported as the three most difficult ones of the eleven categories to perform. Regarding factors influencing the delivery of BPHS, 83.2% of village doctors choose “too much workload”, 63.9% choose “the salary was too low” and 47.9% choose “the residents did not cooperate with the work”. Conclusions: Increasing subsidy for village doctors, recruitment of health workers and increasing awareness of BPHS of local residents may be effective to promote the delivery of BPHS.

Keywords: Village doctors, public health, China
A PILOT STUDY OF THE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MYANMAR’S PUBLIC HOSPITALS AMONG MYANMAR NATIONALS LIVING IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

The provision of health care services is a major concern in every country and has a key impact on every nation's population. Hospitals play a vital role not only in promoting and protecting peoples' health but also are one of the foremost providers of health care to the public. The purpose of the study is to investigate how Myanmar nationals, who now live in Bangkok, Thailand, perceive and respond to the issue of the quality of health care services provided by Myanmar’s public hospitals since little is known about perceptions to health care services among Myanmar nationals. The pilot study was conducted by convenience sampling technique through self-administered questionnaires that assessed on four key aspects with 27 items using a five Likert scale, measuring perceptions to hospitals, doctors, nurses and overall satisfaction with the health care services provided. The responses (N=40) were analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics. When comparing the groups regarding hospital admission, the one-way ANOVA test did revealed that people previously admitted to Myanmar’s public hospitals were more likely to perceive positively the public hospitals’ willingness to solve their health problem, the doctors and nurses’ competence, attention, professionalism and showed high level of satisfaction with provided healthcare services than the others. The present study will be helpful to healthcare providers needing to understand patient’s preferences and how previous experience of health systems can impact those perceptions, which helps to understand patients likely satisfaction levels with and confidence in the hospital health sector in Myanmar.

\textbf{Keywords:} perception, Myanmar public hospitals, Myanmar nationals
THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: CONTESTATIONS OF ITS COHERENCE AND THE ARGUMENT OF NON-JUSTICIABILITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The right to health in international law has been characterized by the extremes of great enthusiasm and optimism by proponents and deep indifference and pessimism by opponents who doubt that the concept is coherent, definable, politically viable, economically sustainable or justiciable. As such, the discourse occupies a highly contested space in international human rights law and its implementation is a matter of much disagreement for advocates and opponents at the international and domestic level. In view of this situation, this paper aims to achieve three main objectives: first, to identify and present in a coherent manner the key questions/issues that have defined the character and content of the body of work on the right to health in international law; second, to clarify the contentious issues in theory and praxis that have more or less informed (and continue to do so) the trajectory in which the right to health currently travels; and third, to identify how the claim of indeterminacy in the international framework on the right to health has provided an opportunity for countries like Nigeria to refrain from engaging with that right in their domestic system. The overarching argument here is that as a result of the contestations that have characterized the right to health discipline in the international system, successive administrations in Nigeria have wittingly or unwittingly been armed with (more or less) powerful arguments which have been used to deprive Nigerian citizens of the benefits of the right to health in the domestic system of Nigeria.

Keywords: right to health, international law, justifiability, Nigeria, theory, praxis
LEGAL CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING PUBLIC HEALTH OBJECTIVES THROUGH PRODUCT LABELLING REGULATION: A SRI LANKAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Although Sri Lanka is a nation with a rich and deep-rooted history premised upon the teachings of the Buddhist traditions, it has adopted a fairly less conservative attitude towards the consumption, sale and promotion of alcohol and tobacco products, until recently. While there remains an express prohibition in Buddhist scripture in respect of the consumption of alcohol, the law merely prohibits the sale of alcohol products on ‘Full Moon Poya Days’, a key Buddhist public holiday in Sri Lanka. On the other hand, no such restriction applies to the sale of tobacco, which probably is far more harmful to human health, although entails a lesser degree of moral objection. It was not until recently that the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act 2006 (‘the NATA Act’) was enacted, which to a significant extent circumscribed the freedom of alcohol and tobacco companies operating in Sri Lanka. Given the impact that the NATA Act has had on alcohol and tobacco companies, it was not surprising that the said law’s constitutionality was challenged at the Bill stage. Of course, it was not until 2012 that the Government of Sri Lanka brought further controls in respect of the tobacco industry through an attempt to introduce pictorial health warnings to be displayed on tobacco packs, which once again was subject to a series of lawsuits, ultimately giving rise to an amendment to the NATA Act itself being brought almost immediately after the election of a new President in January 2015, who coincidentally was the Minister of Health under the former Government. This paper seeks to contribute to the on-going legal debate on Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health, but with reflections on the Sri Lankan perspective. The paper specifically focuses on the latest developments that have taken place in Sri Lanka in respect to tobacco regulation and considers the reaction of the Sri Lankan courts when the legality and constitutionality of these regulatory measures were challenged. The paper then proceeds to prophesize whether a ‘plain packaging’ regime, if introduced, would be consistent with Sri Lankan Constitution and then proposes a potential compromise – the ‘removable trademark’ – in the event plain packaging is determined to be unconstitutional.

Keywords: tobacco, pictorial health warnings, constitutionality, regulation, public health objectives
RISK FACTORS OF STROKE IN COASTAL VILLAGES OF A TOWN IN UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA, INDIA: A CASE CONTROL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Background: The prevalence of stroke was reportedly higher in four coastal villages as compared to the neighboring villages. Hence the study was conducted as per the request from The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. Objective: To identify the risk factors for stroke cases in the four villages of Mavinakurve Gram Panchayath, Bhatkal Taluk. Methodology: 53 stroke patients were compared with 106 age and locality matched controls. Data was obtained using a predesigned, pretested questionnaire for socio-demographic variables, sources of water, palm oil and milk powder consumption, smoking and alcohol usage, stress score, history of hypertension, BMI and Waist Hip ratio. The data was entered in the SPSS version 15.0 and analyzed. Results were expressed as proportions. Associations were analyzed using Chi-square test. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: Most of the cases (53%) and controls (45%) belonged to the age group of 60-69 years. 62.2% of the cases were males and 37.8% were females. 45.3% of the cases and 34.0% of the controls were involved in fishing. 15% of the cases and 2.8% of the controls had high stress. Statistically significant association was found between high stress and stroke. 86.8% of cases and 72.6% of controls were hypertensive (p value of 0.04). Conclusion: The prevalence of stroke in this area is higher than the state/national average. Hypertension and stress are important risk factors. Periodic screening for early detection of hypertension, health education, appropriate lifestyle modification and prompt treatment for hypertension are very important.

Keywords: Stroke, hypertension, salt consumption, stress
NURSES’ STYLES OF COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

The ability to communicate in a correct way is essential in the work of a nurse. The aim of the study was to determine interpersonal communication styles (CS) presented by nurses while dealing with the patient and their considerations. In a study conducted in 2013 - 14 participated 728 nurses, who were employed in hospital wards in five provinces of central and southern Poland. In the research the scale of interpersonal communication was used by Z. Tarkowski (2012). For calculations statistical package SPSS/PC was applied. The majority of respondents - 503 people (69.09%) presented the desired - assertive CS, 136 (18.68%) - an aggressive one and 89 (12.22%) – a submissive style. The differentiating factor in the communication behavior (at the level of statistical significance) was an employment period in the profession and the age of patients. The respondents who have worked in the profession for over 20 years often presented an aggressive CS; a submissive CS was often presented by people who worked at the pediatric wards. There was no relationship between the style of communication and education. The essence of nurses’ work often requires cyclical participation in interpersonal communication trainings

Keywords: communication style, nurses, patient
THE DYNAMICS OF A CHANGING HEALTH PATTERN: HOW TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION?

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ABSTRACT

As a recent article in New England Journal of Medicine makes it evident, we seem to be living in a medical education bubble market. Moreover, as pointed out by Lancet and many more research works and activist groups, there is occurring a paradigmatic shift from the state-owned, public health-based preventive as well as low-tech programs to the corporate, individual health-based and high-tech curative programs. Graduates coming out from a great heterogeneity of medical colleges greatly share the psyche of buyer-seller philosophical position. I would try to address how to transcend this Bharat-India divide in health care. Method 1 Literature survey; and Method 2 Objective field survey of rural population and health care facilities, with trained personnel existing in a marginal part of West Bengal. The conception of public health differs from individual clinical health in a significant way that the former is embedded in community life with its own characteristic cultural specifics and somewhat against- medicalization traits – not learnt exactly in the curricula of medical colleges. When a doctor takes into account the dynamics of a population's life and its changing patterns seriously, an honest approach to render assistance to population and health will come in the offing.

Keywords: Public health, clinical health, curative programs, community, cultural specifics, Bharat-India divide
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AGED 0-18 IN TERMS OF SELECTED PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT FACTORS - POLAND

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ABSTRACT

The goal of the presented research was to determine the relation between selected physical development factors and the physical development process at the ages of 6, 10, 14 and 18, considering the biological state in the neonate period. Materials and methods: The results are based on semi-longitudinal studies of children born in the year 1995 in Kielce hospitals. 428 newborns were studied until the age of 18, this including 172 boys and 256 girls. The evaluation of morphological features included the newborns' body length, and in later years height and body mass. Basic statistical characteristics (X, s) were calculated for all of the features under study, taking into consideration gender, mother's age at time of birth, and the number of pregnancies and births given. The results were normalized to a scale of 0 to 1 of the total population. Conclusions: 1) First-born newborns were significantly smaller than children from subsequent births. Having observed body height at the ages 6, 10, 14 and 18, the influence of environmental factors becomes visible. 2) Body mass of both sexes born from the first pregnancy was lower than that of newborns from subsequent pregnancies. For girls at the age of 18 relations similar to those in the neonate period remain. 3) An overwhelming majority of the children were born to mothers at their optimal age, i.e. between 22 and 30. Boys and girls of the eldest mothers had the highest body mass at birth. This difference was not observed in later periods.

Keywords: newborns, physical development, subsequent pregnancies and births
DIARRHOEA DILEMMA: WHY ARE CHILDREN STILL DYING?

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ABSTRACT

Diarrhea is the single most important cause of death in children under 5 years, where 1 in 4 children die in Cross River State, Nigeria. Childhood diarrhea accounts for about 18% of deaths in this age group, killing more children than AIDS, Malaria and Measles combined. This study examines the factors influencing childhood diarrhea in children under five years in communities in Cross River State, Nigeria. Largely caused by the Rotavirus, childhood diarrhea is propagated by lack of safe drinking water and poor sanitation and hygienic practices with more children (75%) in the rural areas dying from diarrhea than in the urban areas (42%) (UNICEF, 2010). Low cost and simple interventions like prompt replacement of fluids, hand washing and continued feeding of the sick child have been packaged as child survival programs and implemented, however they are obviously not working. This survey seeks to identify the influences on the prevalence of diarrhea to be able to modify policies and interventions that are directed at controlling childhood diarrhea. Areas of residence, child factors and maternal factors and environmental factors were shown to influence diarrhea in young children. The age of the child, the age of mother and education received by the mother were important determinants in predicting the prevalence of diarrhea in the two weeks preceding the study in randomly selected communities in Cross River State? Routine immunization was a surprisingly poorly understood factor that was shown to negatively influence the odds of diarrhea. Improving the vehicle of the interventions to appropriately fit caregivers at the local areas will significantly improve the implementation and subsequent impact of child survival strategies for childhood diarrhea.

Keywords: childhood diarrhea, Nigeria, community
SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY OF PHOTO REFRACTOR FOR SCREENING REFRACTIVE ERRORS IN 3 TO 6 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Background: Photo screening is a preferred option for preschool age children who are unable or non-co-operative for traditional screening. Vision screening has impact on eye health and productivity in adulthood. Purpose: To determine the sensitivity and specificity of photo refractor for screening refractive error and agreement between photo refraction and cycloplegic refraction.

Methodology: 102 eyes (51 subjects) were assessed for vision using Lea symbol chart, photo refractor (Plus optix A09), binocular vision examination, cycloplegic refraction, anterior and posterior segment evaluation in the Out Patient Department of Ophthalmology, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal. Sensitivity and specificity of photo refraction and cyclo refraction was determined using ROC curve and the Bland Altman plot for the agreement between them. A p value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Median age of children was 70 months (74, 53). 56.8% was females and 43.2% were males. 53.9% had refractive errors. Corrected Spherical values showed 61% sensitivity and 68% specificity in photo refractor and 58.2% and 64.7% in cyclorefraction. Sensitivity and specificity for cylindrical photo refraction values were 75.6% and 68% while cyclo refraction values were 83.6% and 100% respectively. 80% agreement was observed between spherical and cylindrical values for photo refraction and cyclo refraction values using Bland Altman plot.

Conclusion: There is good agreement between sphere and cylinder values with photo refraction and cyclo refraction. So corrected Photo refractor values can be used for mass screening of refractive errors in a quicker pace to reduce the prevalence of amblyopia.

Keywords: preschool, vision, screening, refractive error, photo refractor
WHO IS EXCLUDED AND HOW? AN ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY SPACES FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) indicators of Pakistan depict the deplorable state of the poor and rural women and children. Many MNCH programmes stress the need to engage the poor in community spaces. However, caste and class based hierarchies and the gendered social norms exclude the lower caste poor women from accessing healthcare. To find pathways for improving the lives of the excluded, this study considers the social system as a whole and describes the mechanisms of exclusion in the externally created formal community spaces and their interaction with the indigenous informal spaces. The study used a qualitative case study design to identify the formal and informal community spaces in three purposively selected villages of Thatta, Rajanpur and Ghizer districts of Pakistan. Community perspectives were gathered by conducting 37 focus group discussions, based on participatory rural appraisal tools, with separate groups of women and men. Relevant documents of six MNCH programmes were reviewed and 25 key informant interviews conducted with programme staff. We found that lower caste poor tenants and nomadic peasants were excluded from formal and informal spaces. The formal community spaces formed by MNCH programmes across Pakistan included the fixed, small transitory, large transitory and emerging institutional spaces. Programme guidelines mandated selection of community notables in groups/committees and used criteria that prevented registration of nomadic groups as eligible clients. The selection criteria and adverse attitude of healthcare workers, along with inadequacy of programmatic resources to sustain outreach activities also contributed to exclusion of the lower caste poor women from formal spaces. The informal community spaces were mostly gender segregated. Infrequently, MNCH information trickled down from the better-off to the lower caste poor women through transitory interactions in the informal domestic sphere.

Keywords: Social exclusion, community spaces, health, maternal and child health.
MAGNITUDE OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY AMONGST SCHOOL CHILDREN IN DELHI, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Obesity has emerged as an epidemic in India. The present study was conducted to assess the magnitude of overweight and obesity amongst children in the age group of 5-18 years belonging to low, middle and high income group in National Capital Territory NCT of Delhi. A total of 16,595 children (LIG 5087, MIG 5134 and HIG 6368) were covered in the present study. Overweight and obesity were assessed using Body Mass Index (BMI) and Triceps Skin Fold Thickness (TSFT) utilizing age and sex specific cut off points. Considering the BMI cut off points, the prevalence of obesity and overweight in Low Income Group (LIG) school children was 0.1 and 2.7 percent respectively, amongst Middle Income Group (MIG) school children it was 0.6 and 6.5 percent and in High Income Group (HIG) school children was 6.8 and 15.3 percent respectively (p<0.001). With regard to the TSFT criteria, the prevalence of obesity and overweight in LIG school children was 1.2 and 2.4 percent, amongst MIG school children it was 2.5 and 4.9 percent and in children belonging to HIG schools was 9.3 and 13.1 percent respectively (p<0.001). The study documented that prevalence of overweight and obesity was higher in the HIG children as compared to the MIG and the LIG for all age groups, highlighting the possible role of change in the dietary pattern and physical activities with increase in income levels.

Keywords: Obesity, Nutrition, Skin fold Thickness
THE INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION, ATTITUDE AND KNOWLEDGE OF NURSES REGARDING THE PHENOMENON OF VIOLENCE INVOLVING CHILDREN ILLUSTRATED WITH THE EXAMPLE OF POLISH SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nurses working in pediatric wards are inclined towards a thorough study of the problem and an attempt to find methods for helping children subject to violence. The goal of the undertaken research was to assess the level of knowledge and nursing basics in regard to child abuse and violence. Materials and method: Research using questionnaires was carried out in the Władysław Buszkowski Children’s Hospital of Kielce, Poland, in the years 2011-2012, with 103 randomly chosen nurses having taken part. Furthermore, the inner-hospital registry of children who were suspected of being subject to domestic violence, and the inner-hospital procedure defining the help system for abused children, were analyzed. Results: It is believed that the form of abuse nurses most often recognize is physical violence (49.51%). Mental abuse is rarely recognized (28.15%), too little time is spent on observing a child's behaviour and mental development (65.05%); mental state assessment is relegated. There is not enough nursing personnel in care of children (56.31%), which leads to overwork and purely instrumental actions upon dealing with them (40.77%). The nurses taking part in the study considered their level of professional preparation (interdisciplinary knowledge) to help the young victims of violence was as follows: 40.78%proper, 31.07% mediocre, 25.24% in need of complement, and 2.91% inadequate. Conclusions: The growing tendency of the phenomenon of violence towards children indicates a need to spread interdisciplinary knowledge amongst nurses on the subject of help, forms of preventive measures and therapy for the abused children.

Keywords: domestic violence, abused children, hospital help system
ABSTRACT

Malaria is endemic in 13 districts of Bangladesh bordering with India and Myanmar and about 13 million people are at risk. BRAC has been working in malaria control since 1998, in partnership with the government, which was scaled up in 2007 with the support from the Global Fund. Community-based female service providers have been deployed to deliver services at the doorstep of the people. They provide diagnosis (using RDT) and treatment services (ACT/chloroquine and primaquine) to uncomplicated confirmed cases, and refers severe cases, pregnant women and <5kg child to the government health facility. They also promote LLIN use with special focus on children and pregnant women and mobilize people to improve care-seeking behaviour through regular household visits and group meetings. LLIN use by U-5 children was maintained at >80% since 2008 (92.2% in 2014). Infant morbidity showed significant decline (3.7% of total in 2007 to 0.5% in 2014). There was also a decline in the number of deaths from malaria (252 in 2007 to 45 in 2014) where there was no infant death since 2011. Despite an upsurge of malaria cases in 2014 with threefold death from previous year, the infant mortality continued to be zero. Scaling up of LLIN use, expansion of EDPT and community mobilisation through household visits of the community service providers increased accessibility to malaria diagnosis & treatment services and improved early health care-seeking behaviour. All these contributed reduction of morbidity and mortality of malaria especially among infants.

Keywords: Malaria, infant mortality, Bangladesh
THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN WITH OBSTETRIC FISTULA; A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to identify and systematically review literatures on the lives and experiences of women with obstetric fistula. Studies were identified by systematically searching; the electronic databases of MEDLINE, EBSCO (Academic Search Premier, Psych INFO and CINAHL), POPLINE, and Web of Science; Grey literatures and websites of international organizations such as Women's Dignity Project, and Engender Health. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were defined. Search terms used were: obstetric fistula, Vesicovaginal fistula, urogenital fistula, lived experiences, experiences, characteristics, psychosocial support, social support system, reintegration, rehabilitation and quality of life. Key words was combined using the Boolean operators of AND, OR and NOT. Years considered were from 2004 to January 2015. 20 articles were identified. Data was extracted, evaluated and synthesized. Living with fistula was presented as multidimensional consequences that affected the woman, her family and community. Not all women experience isolation, rejection, and marital disruption. Accessing treatment is difficult and there are no standardized treatment packages. Surgical repairs led to varying degrees of continence. Authors claim women irrespective of continence status resume normal lives; others however claim they still face discriminations in spite of being continent thereby hindering reintegration. The reproductive and sexual lives after reintegration were still in jeopardy. Quality of life is worse for those still incontinent. Post repair psychosocial support services are beneficial for reintegration; research on benefits of such programs is limited. Therefore, there is need to investigate further the reintegration experiences of women post repair to inform post repair care management

Keywords: fistula, post repair care, reintegration experiences
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR GIRLS IN ADOLESCENCE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Adolescent girls need social contact with their peers in order to build a pattern of relationships which they will use as adults. It is their peers they expect to receive acceptance and support from. This process is part of creating a social component forming the identity and should not be inhibited. The experience acquired in the school environment affects the development of adolescents in many areas. Peer environment fulfills the function of socialization. Aim of the study: Examining the correlation relationship between the quality of life of girls with menstrual disorders in the light of the KIDSCREEN-52 questionnaire, and their age, physical health and socio-demographic indicators selected against healthy peers. Materials and methods: 122 girls with menstrual disorders from urban and rural areas, and 240 girls without any health or developmental problems from primary and lower secondary schools in urban and rural environment were examined. The study included girls attending primary and lower secondary schools at the age of 13 to 16. The studies used the standardized instrument - KIDSCREEN-52 Health Related Quality of Life Questionnaire for Children and Young People - Polish version of the questionnaire to test the quality of life related to health of children and adolescents. To obtain somatometric data anthropometric measurements techniques were used: height, weight, body slenderness, body mass index and Rohrer’s index, the content of fat in the body, body density, active tissue and fat in kilograms and percentages. It takes advantage statistic methods STATISTICA and Test ANOVA Kruskala-Wallis. Results: Based on the analysis of the obtained outcomes the largest number of dependencies was found between dimensions of quality of life related to health and age. Dissatisfaction with life and socio-economic status was found to be an equally important determinant of poor evaluation of life quality in health. Girls with menstrual disorders originating both from city and rural environments did not perceive their health and well-being in positive categories. Meanwhile, most of the girls without disorders in the state of health and development assessed their health as good and very good, did not suffer subjective ailments and was content with their present life (p<0.001). Conclusions: There exists a high correlation between the dimensions of life quality related to health according to the KIDSCREEN-52 questionnaire, and age and selected indicators of physical health as well as socio-demographic indicators in girls with different backgrounds, with menstrual disorders and those without any health and developmental disturbances.

Keywords: life quality, socio-demographic indicators, physical health, maturation
BURDEN OF INJURIES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF PONDICHERRY: A POPULATION BASED INCIDENCE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Despite injury being a major public health problem globally as well as in India, lack of reliable community based data has thwarted its recognition. The objective of the study was to find out the incidence and types of injuries in rural and urban areas of Pondicherry. A population based prospective study was conducted in the field practice areas of JIPMER, Pondicherry in 2012 and included a randomly selected 120 households each from rural (477 individuals) and urban (448 individuals) areas after obtaining written informed consent. Enrolled households were visited once every 3 months for a year for collection of information on all injuries. To aid recall, each enrolled household was provided with one calendar with a structure list of common injuries prevalent in the area. The wife of the head of the household or, in her absence, any adult member was interviewed about any injury suffered by any household member in the preceding three months. Efforts were made to meet the injured individual to get additional information. The injury incidence was found to be 161 per 1000 person years (177 per 1000 person years in rural area and 144 per 1000 person years in urban area). Males reported higher injury incidence compared to females. The highest injury incidence was reported among individuals aged 30-44 years. Injury occurrence was highest in the month of January (25 episodes, 17%). Road traffic injury (31%) followed by fall (26%) were the most common mechanism of injuries reported. It was concluded that injury incidence was higher among rural population, male members and individuals aged 30-44 years. Road traffic accidents and falls were the major mechanism of injury reported.

Keywords: Injuries, Incidence, Prospective study, Mechanism of Injuries, Population based study
DISEASE PROFILE AND PATTERN OF HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION IN A FIELD PRACTICE AREA, SOUTHERN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of any health care system is to maintain and improve health outcome. It depends on adequate knowledge of the individuals on the way of utilizing the health services, and factors predictive of this behavior. This study was conducted to find out the self-reported systemic and/or infectious diseases that they recently suffered from and oral diseases and their attendance to, and choice of health care provider. A house-to-house survey was conducted on 583 subjects. Data was collected by interview based questionnaire consisting questions related to socio-demographic data, systemic diseases, and type IV oral examination. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 20. Chi-square test was used for comparison of categorical data. Out of 583 individuals, males were 277 and females were 306. Majority of them belong to the age group 16-45 years. Major systemic disease reported was hypertension (17.5%) followed by diabetes (11.8%). Major dental disease observed was dental caries (43.9%). Only 47.9% and 19.4% had consulted for medical and dental treatments respectively. Choice of place for medical treatment was significantly different (p=0.004) among different income age groups. Higher percentage of People not visiting health care provider calls for improving their awareness and motivating them to use services available.

Keywords: Disease, Pattern, Utilization, Oral Health, Choice, Health care provider
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A COMMUNITY BASED STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence against women is an all pervasive phenomenon worldwide that has serious health consequences for women. In India, the health sector response in addressing the problem is suboptimal. Present study aimed to assess the association of domestic violence against women with their physical and mental health status. This mixed methods community based; cross sectional study was carried out among 827 ever married urban and rural women from Delhi selected through cluster sampling followed by systematic random sampling. Data were collected using pretested structured and in-depth questionnaires. Descriptive and multivariate analysis using Stata 11.0 (College Station, Texas, USA) was done for quantitative data. The prevalence of psychological, physical, sexual, physical or sexual violence and any form of violence was 43.4%, 27.2%, 26.4%, 28.2% and 43.4% respectively ever in life and was 37.6%, 19.3%, 20.3%, 22.6%, 37.8% respectively in past 12 months. Twenty seven percent women reported poor or very poor general health and a quarter of the women (25.3%) reported unhealthy mental status (>8 Score) in past four weeks. Women who had experienced domestic violence were more likely to report poor physical and mental health status; and suicidal tendencies as compared to women who had not experienced violence. Domestic violence in Delhi is considerably high and has significant effect on women’s physical and mental health. The results highlight the need to develop public health interventions.

Keywords: Women, domestic violence, physical and mental health
INTERCORRlations AMong health belieFs and affect

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to examine the intercorrelations among certain health beliefs and their impact on individuals’ emotions. First, we examined the relationship between perceived barriers to achieve specified health behavior and perceived susceptibility to illness. Second, we assessed the relationship between perceived severity of illness and perceived susceptibility to illness. Third, we examined the impact of those beliefs on individuals’ emotions. In the current study, 164 patients who attended the clinics and the out-patient department at a private hospital in Sri Lanka completed a questionnaire with scales measuring three sets of health beliefs: perceived barriers to take action, perceived susceptibility to illness, perceived severity of illness and affect. This study found a significant relationship between perceived barriers to take action and perceived susceptibility to illness. Also, there was a positive correlation between perceived severity of illness and perceived susceptibility to illness. Results also revealed that perceived barriers of illness was significantly associated with negative affect.

Keywords: health beliefs, perceived barriers, perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, negative affect
ABSTRACT

CBC is a laboratory test which is routinely done. There is often a post collection interval before analysis of results where external factors such as storage temperature, and the duration of sample storage can affect the results. Therefore this study analyses the storage effects of components of CBC at different temperatures over time. A cross sectional study was conducted in the laboratory of CSTD. K2EDTA blood samples were randomly taken from 102 healthy individuals. Baseline measurements were analyzed within 30 min of collection through analyzer Sysmex SX 500i. Samples were divided into 3 portions; each of them was kept at 4±2°C, 23±2°C and 31±2°C up to 48hrs. All were repeatedly analyzed after 6hrs, 24hrs, and 48hrs. RBC, HGB, MCH and WBC were stable at 4°C, 23±2°C and 31±2°C throughout the study. MCHC, HCT, RDW-CV were stable only at 4°C. The machine refused to read the differential count of most samples after 24hr of storage at all temperatures except 4°C. Storage caused a significant decline in platelet count and an increment in MPV at all temperatures after 6hr. (P <0.05). It is preferable to perform the full blood count as soon as possible and indicate both time and date of the sample collection and sample analysis. +4°C is the best temperature to store the specimens if the analysis is delayed for a longer period of time.

Keywords: Complete blood count (CBC)
DETERMINANTS OF OCCUPATIONAL BURNOUT OF NURSES WORKING IN HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS IN POLAND

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ABSTRACT

Nurses working in Polish hospitals belong to a professional group significantly exposed to occupational burnout. The aim of the study was to determine the factors influencing the occupational burnout in this group. The method employed was the diagnostic survey, with questionnaire as a technique. The study comprised 980 nurses from the Świętokrzyskie, Łódzkie, Opolskie and Lubelskie voivodeships, and was conducted in 2013-14. Occupational burnout was determined in 24.0% of the respondents, and significant weariness in 54.0%. This latter group displayed certain individual manifestations including: evasion, dispiritedness, depersonalization, emotional exhaustion and lack of sense of accomplishment. A relation has been determined between nurses’ level of education and occupational burnout – lower-educated respondents comprised the largest percentage of the burnt-out ones (18.0% out of 24.0%). Also confirmed was the relation between the occupational burnout and the number of tended patients. The more patients to look after, the more frequently various burnout symptoms were being found. The occupational burnout and exhaustion of nurses is significant. It depends on the amount of obligations as well as professional competences and qualifications. The nurses taking part in the study indicated that they require help and support, as their psychophysical condition has a considerable and adverse impact upon the quality of medical services as well as the quality of private life.

Keywords: burnout, nurses, support
PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MUSCULOSKELETAL DISCOMFORT AMONG STREET SWEEPERS IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

High prevalence of work related musculoskeletal discomfort among street sweepers is reported worldwide. Street sweepers may be at risk for musculoskeletal aches and pain in the neck, shoulders, hands, back and lower limbs from their daily working activities. Repetitive movement of the broom, improper sweeping, poor posture may cause musculoskeletal discomfort. The aim was to determine the prevalence and associated between risk factors for musculoskeletal discomfort among street sweepers. A cross-sectional was conducted in Chiang Rai province, Thailand. The study setting was a Chiangrai municipality which encompassed 4 sub-districts including Wiang, R obe Wiang, Rimkok and Sansai. 75 eligible street sweepers volunteered for the study. The Standard Nordic Musculoskeletal Questionnaire (NMQ) was used to assess musculoskeletal pain. In the past 12 months 86.70% of street sweepers had musculoskeletal discomfort in the wrists/hands, 84.00% in shoulders and 76.00% in neck. In the past 7 days, 84.00% of street sweepers had musculoskeletal discomfort in the wrists/hands, 81.30% in shoulders and 69.00% in neck. Musculoskeletal discomfort was associated with age, number of years of working, BMI, cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking (Chi-square p < 0.05). Musculoskeletal discomfort is a complicated problem, affects health status and contributes to lost work time among street sweepers. Street sweeping work involves repetitive movements and awkward postures leading to musculoskeletal discomfort. The relevant authorities should be concerned with the health of these employees and consider providing practical programs for reducing musculoskeletal discomfort such as training course, stretching exercises and posture adjustment.

Keywords: Prevalence, Risk factors, Musculoskeletal discomfort, and Street sweepers
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ON LEPTOSPIROSIS PREVENTION AMONST TOWN SERVICE WORKERS IN NORTHEASTERN MALAYSIA: REVISITED AFTER 5 YEARS

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ABSTRACT

Town service workers are more likely to be exposed to the leptospiral infection resulting from their occupational activities. A cross sectional study was conducted in northeastern Malaysia involving 321 town service workers who were subjected to answer an interviewer-guided validated questionnaire which consists of demographic, knowledge, attitude and practice information. Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS Version 20. All of the respondents were Malay with mean age of 40.6 (SD 10.28) years old and ranged from 20 to 68 years old. Majority of the respondents were married (83.5%) and slightly higher proportion of them underwent at least upper secondary school level (51.4%) compared to those who underwent lower secondary school (48.6%). The mean duration of employment was 12.1 (SD 9.62) years. Only 54 respondents (16.8%) had never heard of leptospirosis, meanwhile 106 (33.0%) of them had good knowledge level. Among the respondents, 167 (52.0%) and 128 (39.9%) had satisfactory attitude and practice respectively. Knowledge on risk factors for leptospirosis was lacking. There were high risk attitude during working such as drinking habit (44.6%) and protective equipment use (correct answer ranged from 67.3% to 89.1%) during working. The weakest area identified in their practice was also in the protective equipment use. In conclusion, the workers’ level of knowledge, attitude and practice were relatively unsatisfactory and inadequate that exposes them to an increased risk of contracting leptospirosis. Identified weak areas in their knowledge, attitude and practice will assist the policy makers to develop a focused and well-directed intervention program.

Keywords: Town Service Workers, Leptospirosis, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice
EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTION IN IMPROVING KAP TOWARDS LEPTOSPIROSIS AMONG TOWN SERVICE WORKERS IN KELANTAN, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is preventable if appropriate measures are taken especially for modifiable risk factors. Intervention among the high risk groups is one of many preventive measures that could be taken to control this disease. The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of Leptospirosis Interactive Health Promotion Module (LIHPM) in improving KAP among town service workers in Kelantan, Malaysia. It was carried out in four districts in Kelantan, a northeastern state of Malaysia, which involved 71 town service workers, 34 participants were selected as intervention group and 37 participants as control group. The LIHPM was developed based on the manual of Visualization in Participatory Programmes. Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS Version 20.0. The mean knowledge score at baseline was not significantly different between intervention and control groups. However, there was a significant mean difference in knowledge score between the intervention and control groups regardless of time. Similarly for the mean attitude and practice score, it was not significantly different between intervention and control groups at baseline but there was a significant mean difference between the intervention and control groups regardless of time. In conclusion, Leptospirosis Interactive Health Promotion Module (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Modules), an intensive interactive intervention program for targeted group, was proven to be significantly effective in improving the knowledge, attitude and practice score on leptospirosis among ‘high risk’ town service workers in the intervention group.

Keywords: effectiveness, intervention, leptospirosis interactive health promotion module (LIHPM), knowledge, attitude, practice, town service workers
PERCEIVED STRESS AMONG NURSES WORKING IN CRITICAL CARE AREAS OF BPKIHS

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the perceived stress among nurses working in critical care areas of BPKIHS. Descriptive, cross sectional study was adopted. Using total enumerative sampling method, 98 samples were selected from critical care units. A semi structured questionnaire was used to assess the perceived stress. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis. The P value was estimated at 95% confidence interval. The study revealed that the mean stress score was 25.67 with standard deviation 4.67 (25.67±4.67). The stress was significantly associated with age, years of experience, duration of service in current ward, educational level (P<0.05). Majority of the nurses as stressor perceived compromising standard when resources are short (93.7%), discussing treatment withdrawal or end of life (85.3%), informing relatives about patient’s death (80%), managing VIP patient (75.8%), talking to distressed relatives (75.8%), payment/salary (75.8%), workload (55.8%), inadequacy of staff (78.9%), dealing with doctors team (72.6%), lack of recognition of one’s effort (62.1%), being on critical care environment (67.4%) as stressors and factors that were perceived as less stressful were family support (16.8%) and supervision from matron (37.9%). Among 19 factors that could probably result as stressors among nurses working in critical care sector, this study indicated that managing VIP patient (P=0.01), workload (P=0.027), inadequacy of nursing staff (P<0.001) and assignment system (P=0.04) was found to have significant association with perceived stress.

Keywords: Stress, Stressors, Perception, Critical care areas, Perception
ABSTRACT

Diarrhea is a symptom of a disease associated with digestive due to infectious pathogens and chemicals as a reaction of the body to remove the infection. Based on WHO’s data in 2007 was taken along 2005, 1.8 million people died due to diarrhea. Moreover, in United States, a disease caused by major pathogens is estimated cost up to US $35 billion/year in medical expenses and lost productivity. In Indonesia on 2010, the incidence rate is 411/1000 person. The prevalence of diarrhea in West Java is the 9th highest which 10.2% is. This study aimed to determine the relationship individual characteristic with diarrhea in chicken slaughter house workers in Bogor on 2013. This study was a case-control study. The case group was workers who suffer from diarrhea during June 2013, while the control group was worker who doesn’t suffer from diarrhea during June 2013. The number of samples case group were 37 subjects and the control group were 37 subjects. The data used is primary data that collected using a questionnaire, variables in this study were age, sex, education, and monthly income. The results of bivariate analysis showed significant association between gender (p value = 0.004; Odds ratio = 4.76; 95% CI 1.72 to 13.16) and monthly income (p value=0.002; Odds ratio=0.203; 95% CI 0.076-0.544) with the incidence of diarrhea. This study showed that gender and monthly income were found as significant factors of occupational diarrhea also monthly income was found as protecting factor.

Keywords: diarrhea, worker, risk factors
POSTER SESSION
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS IN HEALTH CARE

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ABSTRACT

Access to health care, which is one of the fundamental social rights of European countries citizens, in the case of foreigners has special significance. Barriers in this area have their consequences both for patients, as well as for health care institutions, providing them benefits. The aim of the study is to know the opinion of the interviewees on the determinants and barriers in work with socially and culturally diverse patients. Material and methods: The study was conducted among 106 nurses working in a variety of health care institutions in swietokrzyskie voivodeship. The diagnostic survey was used as a research method and the questionnaire of survey – as an author's research tool. Conclusion: As many as 91.5% of respondents said that in professional work of a nurse, knowledge of other cultures is necessary. They presented different attitudes and behaviours in relation to a person from other culture: an individual approach, the same treatment as other patients, curiosity. Having seen discrimination, the most often respondents adopted active attitudes: the expression of verbal objection to this situation, medical assistance, notification superior. Skills that would facilitate health workers relationships and contacts with a person from a different culture: language knowledge, respect and recognition of cultural differences, ability to identify health problems arising from cultural differences.

Keywords: multiculturalism, barriers, health care
ABSTRACT

With the rapidly developing interventional cardiology in Poland in recent years it has managed to prolong life and improve the quality of life of patients with atherosclerotic disease of the coronary arteries. The aim of the study is to assess the quality of life of patients with coronary artery disease treated invasively by coronary angioplasty within one month after surgery. Material and method: When choosing a method of diagnostic survey, Polish version of the questionnaire SF-36v2 (Short Form Health Survey) was used as a technique of collecting information. The study was realized at the Cardiac-Angiology Centre in Starachowice. The study was conducted among 109 patients whose treatment was made widen the coronary arteries by percutaneous coronary angioplasty. Conclusion: Assessing their health status prior to the month, 40.3% of respondents reported improvement, of which 17.4% of them considered their condition as much better. The current state of health limits the patients in activities requiring only intense effort. The state of health or emotional problems had an average impact on normal social activities in a family and friends circle. The patients were more likely to feel positive than negative emotions. The men much less felt physical pain. Only respondents’ education had a statistically significant effect on the assessment of health; other variables, such as gender, place of residence and type of work did not have such an effect.

Keywords: quality of life, patient, coronary angioplasty
DEATH RECORDS AMONG CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE FROM SIX GOVERNORATES IN IRAQ

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ABSTRACT

Iraq MoH figures suggest that 25 of every 1,000 children born live, die by the age five, but UNICEF puts the figure higher at 39. Focused on the reduction of under-five mortality rates, this study looked at 2012 records in hospitals, forensic medicine units and judges’ offices to better understand the circumstances of child deaths in Iraq. This survey examined weight, length of illness, age, birth history, length of time between onset of symptoms and admission, admission and death, and cause of death. Is information transferred from place of death certification to the Directorate of Health (DOH)? Seven governorates were chosen. From each governorate two hospitals and forensic medicine units were surveyed and judges’ offices visited for records of deaths. Prematurity, low birth weight and RDS were major causes of death in hospitals and in the reports from the judges’ offices. The majority of hospital deaths are in the neonatal period, reflecting that Iraq’s under five mortality rate at 34 is nine deaths higher than the neonatal mortality rate of 19. Results of data from all three sources confirm the pattern of high congenital anomalies reported as a cause of neonatal deaths. Excess deaths among males were a pattern found in all sources of mortality data. Overall, around 30% of deaths did not reach the DOH. Developing standardization of classifications, a web-based computerized system, and encouraging use of this information at the hospital, district and governorate level would make this valuable asset even more useful to the Iraqi health system.

Keywords: under-five mortality, pediatric deaths, Iraq, death reporting
TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANT SURVEY IN IRAQ, 2014

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ABSTRACT

New strategies are required for Iraq to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 and the Iraqi MOH resolved to retrain and deploy an estimated 2,000 TBAs to reach these targets. Although TBAs have existed in Iraqi society for generations, there is little documentation. Globally, evidence indicates that well trained TBAs, if supported by the health system, can contribute to increased utilization of maternal and child health services. This study aims to describe the current role and functions of TBAs; identify constraints faced by TBAs in referral of mothers, newborns and children, getting support, linking with the health system, and integrating with skilled birth attendants; measure the impact of training on TBA knowledge and practices and on mothers knowledge on danger signs in pregnancy and danger signs in the newborn that require referral; analyze the impact of TBA training on mothers utilization of maternal services and emergency obstetric care and on perinatal mortality. This survey was carried out among 301 TBAs in June and July of 2014 in 13 Iraqi Governorates using survey questionnaire tools. Results show TBAs are highly used for prenatal and delivery care, conducting an average of 29 deliveries in the past year. Only half have a good understanding of the essentials of care for women during the pre-natal period, delivery and the immediate post-partum period. Knowledge of danger signs among newborns is limited. The MOH needs to ensure adequate training and oversight for TBAs, especially in areas where TBAs are the main point of care for pregnant women.

Keywords: maternal mortality, maternal deaths, Iraq, death reporting
WORK ENVIRONMENT RISK FACTORS TOWARDS LEPTOSPIROSIS AMONG OIL PALM PLANTATION WORKERS IN MALAYSIA: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is a potentially fatal zoonotic spirochetal disease that is recognized as re-emerging public health issue of global importance. It is considered as an occupational disease of workers engaged in agriculture, town service and forestry. Leptospirosis is transmitted to humans through skin or mucous membrane coming into contact with water, moist soil, vegetation or environmental surfaces that is contaminated with the urine of an infected animal. Symptomatic leptospirosis usually manifests into a range of diseases from flu-like illness to Weil's syndrome with multi-organ failure and pulmonary hemorrhage. Palm oil is an important economic sector in Malaysia. To identify the environmental risk factors associated with leptospirosis seropositivity among oil palm plantation workers in Malaysia, we conducted a six-months cross sectional study. Out of total 374 workers recruited, only 350 were involved in the study, resulting in a response rate of 93.6%. Serological test (MAT) according to standard procedure was conducted among the respondents. Using cut-off point of 1:100 titer for seropositive, 100 workers (28.6%) were noted to be positive to leptospiral antibodies. Two factors were significantly associated with leptospirosis seropositivity: cow in the plantation (adj. OR: 4.78; 95% CI: 2.76, 8.26; p<0.001) and presence of landfill in the plantation (adj. OR: 2.04; 95% CI: 1.22, 3.40; p=0.001). Identification of these risk factors might prove useful for future prevention and control of leptospirosis among oil palm plantation workers in Malaysia. Proper intervention needs to be implemented for this high-risk occupational group.

Keywords: Leptospirosis, Oil Palm Plantation Workers, Microscopic Agglutination Test, Work Environments
VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

http://publichealthconference.co/virtual-icoph-2015/
POLICY ANALYSIS ON TOBACCO SMOKING IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Smoking prevalence in Sri Lanka was estimated as 9.3% in 2012 (males 29.9% & females 0.4%). Ratification of Framework and Convention for Tobacco Control and its local enactment Act in 2006, is believed to have influenced smoking trends. This study aimed at describing trends and influence of policy on tobacco smoking in Sri Lanka from 1960-2010. Smoking data was obtained from World Bank database, domestic tobacco distribution from FAO database and population information from UN database. Acts, and policies were referred to from Sri Lanka parliament website. Cigarette prices and current smoker percentages were obtained from ADIC. Correlational analyses were conducted. Average Sri Lankan cigarette consumption from 1960–2004 is 289.19(+58.66) sticks/per capita/year, and average domestic tobacco distribution from 1960-2010 is 8399.79(+3377.7) kg. Smoking had been gradually increasing in Sri Lanka, until 1978, and thereafter declining at the rate of 2.33 per capita/year. Considering males as sole tobacco consumers, Sri Lanka shows a declining trend of 4.16 per capita/year since 1978. Average price of the leading cigarette brand in Sri Lanka was correlated with percentage of current smokers from 2000-2012, to be found negatively correlated with 63.9% variability. Tobacco and excise taxation have been in place since 1953. A decreasing trend commenced in 1978, where no specific control policy can be associated with exception of the open economic policy. It appears since 1978, Sri Lanka has been following the global trend of smoking. Taxation though regularly increased have not met the WHO recommendations, neither have control policies revealed an impact on smoking patterns.

Keywords: Policy, Tobacco, smoking, Sri Lanka
REDUCING WEIGHT OF OVERWEIGHT ADULTS IN A RURAL VILLAGE USING A HEALTH PROMOTION APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to reduce at least 5 kg from present weight of adults between 20-55 years in Kunuragama village within 2 years by addressing villagers’ knowledge regarding Body Mass Index (BMI), causative factors for their overweight and difficulties they face for being overweight and the attitudes on food selection and eating habits. This study was done among 20 – 55 years old adults live in Kunuragama, a rural village in North Central Province of Sri Lanka. A health promotion approach was used in the village such as discussions with families whose members were overweight, facilitated by presentations, videos, obstacle tree, food pyramid and nutritional calendar to mark their sugar, oil and flour in-take per month. Using checklist and group discussions, a significant level of changes in understanding of BMI, causative factors for overweight and harms for being overweight has been observed among participants’ knowledge level regarding overweight. Participants acquired the appropriate weighing and height measuring skills to measure and calculate their BMI and bought a balancer for the villagers to measure weight. 75% were overweight among the participants when initiating this study and at the end, 50% were reduced their weight by 5 kg from their present weight within 2 year time period. Few overweight ladies and their family members started to play out door games with neighbors. Some others initiated to ride bicycle and brisk walking and adhered as their daily routine. Results showed that overweight can be reduced by strengthening community using health promotion approach.

Keywords: Health Promotion, Overweight, Rural Village, Adults
A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN: REGARDING THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF GONORRHEA

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ABSTRACT

The incidence of gonorrhea had declined since the HIV epidemic in the late 1980s but is now increasing globally due to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant forms of this disease. In South Africa, the incidence of gonorrhea is highest among Black women due to their high coinfection rates with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This study examined the psychosocial determinants of gonorrhea among Black women in Cape Town, South Africa. To be eligible for the qualitative design study of one on one interviews, participants had to be a Black African female who lived in the Langa Township in Cape Town, South Africa. The women had to be aged 18 to 35 years old, read and speak at least intermediate English, had at least one sexual experience and at least one positive test for gonorrhea in the past two years. Participant recruitment involved flyer distribution at Love Life, the community partner to the research study. After an initial screening call, twelve women were considered eligible and participated in the study. Based on the information-motivation-behavioral (IMB) skills conceptual framework, the objective was to understand primary determinants of HIV and STI preventive behaviors. The findings of the study identified that the women do not have extensive knowledge of gonorrhea but believe that factors such as a sense of vulnerability, stress in relationships, and social/environmental factors increase their risk of contracting gonorrhea disease. In conclusion, this study can be of great social influence globally because identifying crucial themes through this type of research is imperative for follow-up quantitative studies to outline empirical implications relevant to research papers and policy recommendations.

Keywords: gonorrhea, women, black, health surveys, incidence, urban, South Africa, risk factors/risk taking, sexual behavior, STIs/STIs, epidemiology, interviews, prevalence, psychosocial factors and disease, socioeconomic status as a determinant of disease
INEQUITY IN COVERAGE OF CHILD HEALTH CARE IN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA: A DISTRICT LEVEL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Inequitable coverage of child health services hinders progress in reducing child mortality in India and its states. Uttar Pradesh, with a population of almost 200 million, is the most populous state in India and has an under-five mortality rate of 64 compared to India’s 49. The U5MR varies substantially across districts, despite common State Program Implementation Plans (PIPs), indicating inequity in child health care in the state. Given this inequity, there is lack of a robust mechanism to benchmark and monitor child health care at the district-level. This paper meets this need by presenting a framework for assessing inequity in coverage of select child health interventions across districts of Uttar Pradesh. Utilizing the Annual Health Survey (2012-2013) and District Level Household and Facility Survey (2007-2008), this paper has constructed a Composite Coverage Index (CCI) for child health care in Uttar Pradesh and its districts. An overall coverage of 54% was estimated at the state level, ranging from 28% to 72% at the district-level. Coverage was estimated to be 65% in the child immunization domain and 27% in the child health domain (excluding immunization) of CCI. Significant variations in coverage rates of different interventions were observed within districts and in rural populations. In an effort to achieve the Millennium Development and National Health Mission goals, Uttar Pradesh must address inequity in coverage of child health care by improving accessibility and availability for underserved populations.

Keywords: child health, composite coverage index, Uttar Pradesh, India, districts, Millennium Development and National Health Mission
QUALITY OF PARENTING AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE PARENTING AMONG PARENTS OF 13-15 YEAR OLD SCHOOL GOING ADOLESCENTS IN JAFFNA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

World Health Organization (WHO) identified parenting intervention as the first strategy to improve adolescent health. The objectives of the study were to develop and validate a tool to describe parenting in selected dimensions, to describe parenting and its associated factors among parents of 13 to 15 year old schooling adolescents and to assess the effectiveness of a parenting intervention. The study comprised of three components. Component one developed and validated a self-administered tool to describe the patterns of parenting - Parenting Patterns Questionnaire (PPQ) by, item selection, expert consensus and item analysis. In the component 2, a descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among 1863 schooling adolescents, in 97 clusters, by multi stage cluster random sampling probability proportionate to student population in different types of school and age group. In the third component, a Parenting Education Package was designed and a randomized control trial was conducted to assess the effectiveness of intervention with a sample of 73 parents each group. The data analysis was done using SPSS 15. The PPQ is a reliable and valid tool to assess parenting in selected dimensions (connection, control and respect) in Jaffna district. According to PPQ, parenting was good among 23.1% of parents. Factors such as age and sex of the child, educational level and occupation of parents, substance use of fathers and domestic violence were associated with quality of parenting. Improvement was achieved in parenting by intervention in 3 month period.

Keywords: parenting, adolescent health, parenting interventions
ASSESSMENT OF BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS (UNDER WEIGHT) OF CHILDREN LESS THAN 2 YEARS KEPT IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN KALUTARA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Good nutrition is essential for achieving and maintaining good health, improving quality of life, and enhanced socio-economic development of the country. The plantation sector is considered as a vulnerable population having health and nutrition indicators well below the national averages. Inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices especially short duration of exclusive breastfeeding & inappropriate complementary feeding still persist. Inadequate knowledge and time constraints on the part of caregiver are major contributory factors for poor feeding practices than the economic hardships. The study was carried out to assess the effectiveness of a behavior change intervention (nutritional education package) to improve the nutritional status (underweight) of children less than 2 years kept in Child Development Centers in the estate sector of Kalutara district. The study population was the mothers of selected underweight children. Twenty four mothers with underweight children in one estate were given intervention and 24 mothers from another estate were kept in the wait list as controls. The education was given using materials on how to improve the nutritional status of the children. The mothers were given education in group and individually as well. After 3 months of intervention the weight of the children were checked and looked for any significant improvement. The intervention showed statistically significant improvement using McNemar’s test (p<0.05) in the proportion of underweight children.

Keywords: child nutrition, underweight, nutritional interventions
FOOD SAFETY IN SCHOOL CANTEENS IN JAFFNA MUNICIPAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to describe the level of food safety in school canteens in Jaffna Municipal Council area. It was a descriptive cross sectional study. First, an observational check list was developed with literature review and expert opinion. All the schools in the study area (42 schools) were included in the study and only 16 canteens were studied using the observational check list, as only 16 schools had canteens. The level of food hygiene was satisfactory in 40.1% of canteens. The environmental sanitation was satisfactory in 72.6% of canteens and safe water supply was available in all the canteens (100.0%). In more than 83% of canteens, the food was displayed satisfactorily. The practices were poor among 33.3% of food handlers. Only 32.7% have been educated on food safety. Large majority of food handlers were serving either using food tongs or wearing gloves. Only 8% of food handlers used to wash hands with detergents before handling the food. All the canteens were supervised by the school administration and the Public Health Inspector. All the canteens were recorded with H-800 checklists and 81.5% were ranked as "B grade", 12.5% as "A grade" and 6.25% were ranked as "C grade". In a qualitative component the principals and the health authorities were inquired about the absence of canteens in majority of schools. It was found that the unsafe canteens were not encouraged in schools to ensure the food safety to the children.

Keywords: food safety, school canteens, food outlets
OPTIMIZATION INHIBITION OF PRECIPITATION SOYMILK BY SONICATION METHOD

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ABSTRACT

Precipitation occurred in soymilk products were caused by large size particles. Particle size reduction was done by sonication method with ultrasonic waves. The aim of this research is to get condition optimum of sonication time and amplitude with ultrasonic waves to get the effectiveness of particle size soymilk for stability emulsion and to identify the acceptance of soymilk by panelists. There are two factors studied, sonication time and amplitude of the ultrasonic waves. Based on the research, optimum condition when sonication time was 23 minutes and amplitude was 33%. Particle size in that condition was 347.29 nm, where the stability of soymilk was good because precipitation does not occurs during storage. Based on organoleptic test, taste and texture of soymilk with sonication were not different significantly with soymilk without sonication, and was different significantly for appearance.

Keywords: precipitation, particle size, sonication time, amplitude
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF COVERAGE, QUALITY, AND EQUITY OF REPRODUCTIVE AND ADOLESCENT HEALTHCARE INTERVENTIONS AT DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

Reproductive and adolescent life-stages of any female are most vulnerable to diseases but often ignored for proper healthcare in most of the developing countries. The objectives of the study are assessment of coverage and quality of reproductive and adolescent healthcare interventions at different districts of West Bengal in India; evaluation of change in coverage, quality as well as equity of interventions in between 2007-08 and 2012-13; and development of district ranking tables based on the performance of interventions. Major healthcare interventions for these stages are reduction of unmet need for family planning, enhancement of current use of family planning methods, increase of awareness regarding RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS etc. For this study, data were obtained from two nationally representative surveys, 4th round (2012-13), and 3rd round (2007-08) of District Level Household and Facility Survey. These surveys have been organized by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Descriptive statistics were used for this analysis. Interventions like usage of modern types of family planning methods, consumption of pills, usage of condom, awareness of RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS have improved in West Bengal since 2007-08. On the same time, rate of unmet need of family planning, male and female sterilization rate, IUD insertion rate have deteriorated. There are huge disparities among districts’ performances on interventions. Jalpaiguri, Paschim Medinipur, Koch Bihar, Purba Medinipur have shown very satisfactory coverage rate for majority of interventions. But quality and coverage of interventions are very poor at Nadia, North 24 Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Hugli, and Maldah districts. This paper summarizes the findings based on analyses of the above facts.

Keywords: Reproductive and adolescent healthcare interventions, coverage, quality, equity, West Bengal
MEASLES IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE CONCERNING ELIMINATION SETTINGS IN RIVER NILE STATE 2014, SUDAN

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ABSTRACT

Measles disease considered as one of the most serious childhood diseases worldwide, Sudan started measles elimination activities since 2004. Therefore, remarkable progress noted in morbidity and mortality reduction of the disease. A descriptive cross sectional facility and community based study was carried out in Shendi and Almatama localities in River Nile state in Sudan through the period from November 2012 to February 2015. This study aims to assess the ongoing activities concerning measles elimination including measles converges in routine program, supplementary immunization activities (SIAs). WHO standard of 30 clusters immunization survey sampling was applied for both localities to assess immunization coverage through examine the immunization status of 840 children. The study revealed that, measles’s first dose coverage (MCV1) was (93.8% - 91.9%) in Shendi and Almatama localities, measles’s second dose coverage (MCV2) was (84.8% - 86.2%) in Shendi-Almatama localities, the post measles SIAs survey coverage was (91.9% - 87.7%) in Shendi & Almatama localities comparing with (101% - 98.7%) as administrative coverage. Moreover, educated mothers were more likely to have their children immunized than mothers who had no education and rural areas had the highest coverage rates compared with urban and slum areas. In conclusion, the study recommended that, National immunization program should conduct a periodic immunization surveys especially in high risk groups To obtain high level of first and second doses of measles coverage as well as focus on improving the quality of supportive supervision.

Keywords: measles, immunization, elimination
CAPABILITY DRIVEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE SOLUTIONS

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\section*{ABSTRACT}

Service oriented design discipline is mostly used in present day e solutions for healthcare. Service designing centered on value viewpoint is an effective approach that reducing the complexity of service constellations occurred due to multiparty collaborative environment offering very many diverse services in healthcare context. In this research, we present Reference Information Models focusing on co-created values and recurrent values in healthcare trading scenarios. Further we improved the couple of RIMs towards capability driven models that aligned with healthcare service activities. The proposed models and access level hierarchies are capable enough to provide clear and precise understanding of healthcare value aligned e-Services to be developed and deployed by e-Service designers. Thus the proposed approach also facilitates comprehensive demonstration of information modeling that aligned with higher level healthcare values. Draft modeling of an application area based on the proposal has been briefly demonstrated in order to illustrate the potential applicability of the proposed framework.

\textbf{Keywords:} Healthcare Services, co-created values & recurrent values
DEWORMING PRACTICES AND INTESTINAL PARASITIC INFECTIONS AMONG CHILDREN IN TEA PLANTATION SECTOR IN KANDY, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Deworming children in regular intervals reduces the rate of intestinal parasitic infections (IPI). Objective of this study was to describe the deworming practices in the plantation sector in Kandy, Sri Lanka. A cross sectional study was conducted in children aged between 1-12 years old in a plantation area in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Information regarding de-worming was obtained by interviewing the heads of households. Stool samples were subjected to wet preparation and formaldehyde-ether sedimentation techniques for identification of parasites. The data was analyzed with the SPSS version 17 statistical software. 489 children with a mean age of 6.2 (SD±3.4) years were assessed from January to April 2013. 55% of children were dewormed in regular pattern while others were not regularly. 59% obtains antihelminth drugs from schools, while 22% from regional dispensaries and 14% government hospitals. The overall prevalence of IPI infections was 53.2%. Of the total, 41.4% were dewormed during last 3 months before the study, 26.5% were dewormed within last 3-6 months, 25.7% were dewormed prior to 6 months and 6.4% were never dewormed by parents. The prevalences of IPI were 32.8%, 65.1%, 72.0% and 61.3% respectively and determined that deworming period was significantly associated with IPI ( p < 0.001 ). Majority of children were dewormed in this community due to high knowledge of preventive methods of parents about intestinal parasitic infections. Further studies are needed to determine the appropriate intervals at which deworming treatments to be given.
SOIL TRANSMITTED HELMINTH INFECTIONS AND ANAEMIA AMONG CHILDREN IN POOR URBAN COMMUNITY, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Anaemia is one of the common problems with soil transmitted helminth (STH) infections and it is considered as a moderate public health problem in Sri Lanka. Hemoglobin concentration below 11 g/dl for 0.5-5.0 yrs, 11.5 g/dl for 6-11 yrs and 12.0 g/dl for 12-14 yrs considered as anaemia by the World Health Organization. This study aimed to determine the association between STH and anemia among children in a poor urban community in Kandy, Sri Lanka. 233 children with a mean age of 6.1 (SD±3.2) years were assessed from September 2013-June 2014. 3 ml of venous blood sample was collected into EDTA containers from each participant and hemoglobin concentrations were analyzed using Cyanmethaemoglobin method. Stool samples were subjected to direct wet mount preparation, formaldehyde-ether sedimentation technique and Kato Katz technique for parasitic identification. The overall prevalence of STH infections was 27.4% (64/233). Ascaris lumbricoides was the predominant species found in the study population (26.6%, 62/233) followed by Trichuris trichiura (0.8%, 2/233). STH uninfected children showed higher prevalence of anaemia (13%, 22/169) than the infected children (7.8%, 5/64). There was no statistically difference (p = 0.91) between the mean hemoglobin concentration of uninfected (12.3 g/dl ± 0.8) and infected children (12.1 g/dl ±0.8). STH are not associated with anemia in this study group. However, these infections remain a public health problem indicating a high level of transmission among this community that emphasized the need of coordinated control and prevention strategies with follow-up studies.

Keywords: soil transmitted helminth infections, anaemia, children, Sri Lanka