Factors influencing community health volunteers in participating in health programs in Africa

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**Context**

- Community participation rooted in primary health care (WHO, 1978)
- Critical link in improving access to health services for community
- Volunteering key element of community participation
- “Volunteering involves committing time and energy to provide a service that benefits someone, society or the community without expecting financial or material rewards.” (Akintola, 2011)
Context

- Contributions: in child and maternal health, TB, malaria etc.

- One of the key challenges: sustainability threatened by high rate of attrition.

- What factors affect community health volunteers motivation?
Factors influencing participation

- Individual
- Community
- Health system organization
Individual

- Altruistic concerns for others and community
- Fulfilling one’s dreams
- Gaining skills
- Hope for future financial gain or employment
Community

- Recognition
- Respect
- Family support
- Monetary, material and work related support
Health system organization

- Tools and supplies
- Training
- Supervision
- Job description
Deterrents

- Inadequate financial remuneration
- Workload
- Inadequate services for community
- Inadequate supervision
- Lack of transport/supplies
Further research questions

- What combination of incentives could maintain «volunteers» motivation?

- What is the ideal number or highest limit of tasks that the «volunteers» could undertake?

- How «volunteers» could be involved in decision to identify community health program?

- Which supervisory system could improve «volunteers» performance and productivity?
Conclusion

- More researches on community volunteers using implementation research
- More training putting together health program implementers and researchers
- Mobilization of local funds to conduct implementation research
Sources


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