



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

Fadima YAYA BOCOUM

**Researcher , Institut de Recherche en
Science de la Santé (IRSS)**

Burkina Faso

Fadima YAYA BOCOUM,
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Bethesda, USA

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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