Assessment of Client's Rights and Community Involvement in Fistula Prevention in among Women of Reproductive age at Nyakach Sub-county Kenya

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Abstract (300 word limit)

Problem Statement: Obstetric fistula (OF) continues to affect many women in developing world, Kenya inclusive. A majority of women with the condition are suffering in silence. They are unaware of the available treatment options or unaware of where to get treatment. Yet, the condition is treatable and preventable. The main objective of this study was to investigate client's rights and community involvement in prevention of fistula among women of reproductive age. Methods: A total of 50 women were recruited through convenience sampling and snowballing. The women with fistula were sampled using snowballing. Interviews were conducted to collect data. Data were analyzed and presented using descriptive statistics in the form of percentages and tables. Results: The study revealed inadequate knowledge among respondents. Knowledge on Client's Right to Privacy and Confidentiality was highest at 30% while the rights on the legal reporting requirement was least known by only 4% of the respondents. Misconceptions on the cause of fistula was also reported. More than half (66%) of the respondents indicated that fistula was as a results of curses by relatives. Male involvement was a challenge. Most women indicated that when a woman discovers that she has fistula she hides it from the husband hence their involvement is minimal. The study also found that integration of the survivor to the community is a challenge because of stigma that takes time to change

Conclusions and Recommendations: Knowledge on the rights of women to seek treatment is low hence health education to increase knowledge on women' rights to participate in prevention of fistula and seek treatment should be provided by health providers. There is also need to ensure that community health strategies embrace male involvement in prevention of fistula among women and girls

Image

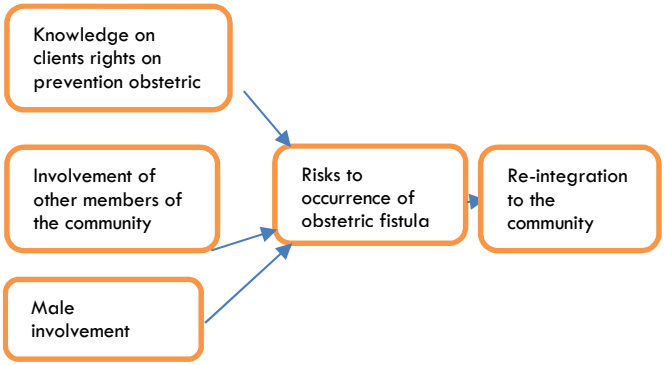


Figure 1. Conceptual framework. Relationship between client rights community involvement and occurrence of obstetric fistula

Recent Publications (minimum 5) (If not leave as blank)

1. Jeremy M. Njiru, Margaret N. Keraka and Anthony K. Wanyoro (2016). Challenges to Visual Cervical Cancer Screening Service Integration and Utilization in Imenti South Sub-County Reproductive Health Care System, Meru County – Kenya Imperial Journal of Interdisciplinary Research (IJIR) Vol-2, Issue-5, 2016 ISSN: 2454-1362, http://www.onlinejournal.in
2. Eliphas Gitonga, Margaret Keraka and Peter Mwaniki.(2015). Birth preparedness among women in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. AFRICAN Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, october–december 2015, Vol 9, No 4
3. Nyamari J., Mugendi B, Keraka M. and D. Agwata 2014: Effectiveness of Food Safety Training on Food Safety Knowledge and Practices of Hospital Food Handlers in Selected Hospitals in Kenya. *Elite Research Journal of Food Science and Nutrition* Vol. 1(1) pp. 12 – 21.
4. Nyagero J. , Gakure R. , Keraka M., Mwangi M. , Wanzala P. 2012. The background, social support and behavioural characteristics associated with health insurance coverage among the older population in Kisii County, Kenya. *The African Journal of Health Sciences* Afr J Health Sci. 2012; 22:201-213



Biography (150 word limit)

Prof Margaret Nyanchoka Keraka completed completed her PhD at the age of 36 years from Kenyatta University. She was promoted to the position of an Associate Professor of Population and Environmental Health in the year 2015. She is the chairperson of the department of Population and Reproductive health at the school of Public Health, Kenyatta University, Kenya. She has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of reputable journals.

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Notes/Comments: