



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

The Role of Implementation Research in Controlling Neglected Tropical Diseases: A Case Study of a Schistosomiasis Control Study in Three Regions, Ghana.

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) continue to pose a significant public health burden, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Schistosomiasis, a parasitic infection, is one of the most prevalent NTDs, affecting over 200 million people worldwide. Implementation research (IR) has emerged as a critical component in the control and elimination of NTDs. This case study examines the role of IR in controlling schistosomiasis in three districts located in three regions of Ghana, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned.

Method:

A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods. Data sources included quantitative interviews with randomly selected community members aged 18 years and above, focus group discussion with men and women separate groups and In-depth interviews with opinion leaders, health workers and staff of Volta River Authority and other stakeholder interviews.

Results:

The study reveals that IR played a crucial role in identifying implementation gaps, informing policy decisions, and improving program effectiveness. Key factors contributing to successful IR included stakeholder involvement and engagement, context-specific solutions, and adaptive program design.

Conclusion:

This project demonstrates the value of IR in controlling schistosomiasis and, by extension, other NTDs. It highlights the need for continued investment in IR, collaborative partnerships, and context-specific approaches to achieve sustainable disease control and possible elimination.

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