

Assessing Informal Healthcare Providers' Knowledge of Diagnosis and Treatment of Malaria and Diarrhoea: evidence from urban slums in Southeast Nigeria



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Background

Despite availability of effective interventions, malaria and diarrhoea remain a public health concern in Nigeria. Informal healthcare providers' (IHPs) account for a significant proportion of health providers providing services for the treatment of communicable diseases especially in urban slums. However, IHPs may pose a challenge to service quality if allowed to provide services without the requisite knowledge and competencies. This study aims to assess informal health providers' knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of malaria and diarrhoea in urban slums.

Methods

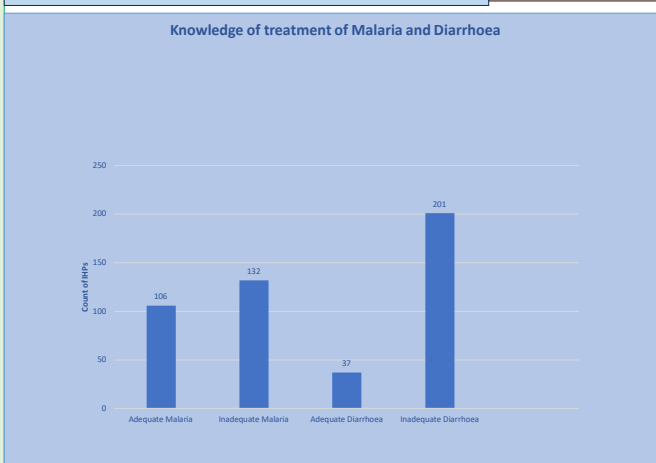
The quantitative study was conducted in 8 urban slums in Anambra and Enugu states in southeast Nigeria. Data was collected from 238 informal providers made up of bonesetters, patent medicine vendors (PMVs), traditional birth attendants (TBAs), traditional herbal medicine dealers and traditional healers, using an interviewer administered questionnaire

Data Analysis

Knowledge were summarised as composite scores and two categories (adequate and inadequate knowledge) generated. The scores were added up to create knowledge ranking for the aforementioned categories. The pooled scores of questions were classified into inadequate and adequate knowledge using median (50%) score values.

Key Findings

- Diagnosis of Malaria and Diarrhoea were by recognition of symptoms.
- 55% of the respondent had inadequate knowledge of treatment of malaria and diarrhoea.
- However PMVS and TBAs showed higher knowledge of treatment of Malaria.
- Training on the job and status in the facility were associated with adequate knowledge of treatment of malaria and Diarrhoea.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Informal health providers knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of malaria and diarrhoea is inadequate. Strengthening service delivery through appropriate training for the different types of informal health providers has the potential to improve health service delivery in urban slums to ensure quality service delivery for the achievement of SDG3 and SDG4.

References

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