Prevalence and associated factors of active trachoma among children aged 1–9 years in rural communities of Gonji Kolela district, West Gojjam zone, North West Ethiopia

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Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. Though trachoma can be treated with antibiotic it is still endemic in most part of Ethiopia. A community based cross-sectional study was conducted among 618 children 1–9 years of age from December 2013 to June 2014. A multistage systematic sampling technique was applied. Data were collected using pretested and structured questionnaire and also observation is done by using binocular loupes to differentiate active trachoma cases. The World Health Organization’s simplified classification scheme for assessing trachoma in community based surveys was used for the purpose. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression model was fitted to identify factors associated with trachoma among children aged 1–9 years. An adjusted odds ratio with 95% confidence interval was computed to determine the level of significance. The overall prevalence of active trachoma among children aged 1–9 years were 23.1% (Trachomatous inflammation—Follicular, in 22.5% (95% CI: 22.3–22.69%); Trachomatous inflammation—Intense, in 0.6% (95% CI: 0.4–0.79%). Family size (>5) (AOR=14.32, 95% CI=6.108–33.601), number of children under 10 years of age within household, latrine utilizations, route of waste disposal, household literacy, cattle housing practice, time to collect water, frequency of face washing practice and source of water were found to be associated with the presence of active trachoma in this study population. The prevalence was found to be high in reference to WHO recommended thresholds to initiate trachoma control recommendation (>10% prevalence), which indicates that active trachoma is still a major public health concern in the study area. Therefore, it is recommended that coordinated work on implementing the WHO endorsed SAFE strategy in particular and enhancing the overall living conditions of the community is crucial.

Roles and impact of nurses in promoting medication adherence of patients under the TB-DOTS program in District V, Manila

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Background: Through the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP), TB-DOTS reached and sustained 100% nationwide coverage, achieving the global target for detection of new cases. NTP Manual of Procedures (MOP) enlists functions of health workers in TB-DOTS.

Purpose: To determine the actual roles and activities of nurses in promoting medication adherence of patients under the TB-DOTS Program in District V, Manila.

Methods: The study employed a descriptive exploratory design to gather baseline data on the actual roles and activities of nurses in promoting medication adherence. Eleven TB nurses were profiled and surveyed using a questionnaire drafted from the 2005 NTP MOP. 29 former TB patients (cured) were interviewed and a cohort of 723 TB case records were tabulated to determine the cure rate, treatment completion rate, and relapse rate for District V Manila. Descriptive statistics, content analysis, and data triangulation were performed and further analyzed using Williams et. al’s Self-Determination Model of Medication Adherence (1998). A pool of experts on TB-DOTS and health policies were consulted.

Results: The current treatment success rate of 73% (n=600) in District V Manila did not meet the target National Treatment Success Rate of 90%. The computed cure rate 26.55% (n=192), relapse rate 1.24% (n=9) and treatment completion rate was 56.43%.

Conclusion: The roles and activities of nurses related to patients’ adherence to TB medications were deemed essential towards better TB patient outcomes. The study recommends further training of nurses for them to improve in carrying out the TB treatment regimen to improve patient adherence.