

The knowledge and perceptions of Schistosomiasis among school-age children: Comparing those who have and have not undergone mass drug administration in the South Tongu district

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Abstract

Main Objective: The aim of this study is to investigate the knowledge and perception of Schistosomiasis among school-age children who have attended schools that have undergone MDA and compare it to those who have not.

Methodology: This research study used a mixed methods approach in order to quantify the level of knowledge children have on Schistosomiasis as well as to understand why such knowledge is or is not present. The quantitative portion included 313 close-ended survey questionnaires while the qualitative portion used four Key Informant Interviews (KII) and eight Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

Conclusion: This research study found that although the MDA program has been successful in targeting school-age children, it is not sustainable due to the lack of educational preparedness. Both teachers and children are not being properly informed about Schistosomiasis, which is inhibiting the MDA program to be up to par with its potential. There is a statistically significant increase in knowing the sign and symptoms, the treatment method and the medication of Schistosomiasis for those have undergone MDA versus those who have not. However, this is not enough to maintain low prevention rates for this Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD). Further, the curriculum in both the schools that have and have not undergone MDA do not include lessons on Schistosomiasis. To enhance MDA and decrease the prevalence of Schistosomiasis, the Ghanaian MOH needs to work with each target community to improve the educational aspect of the program.

Biography:

Stephanie has completed her Masters of Science in Global Health at the age of 23 years from Georgetown University. During her graduate program, she conducted primary research on Schistosomiasis in South Tongu, Ghana for four months. She is now working at Hopital George Pompidou in Paris, France where is working on several research projects with the global health research team.

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