



Operational Efficiency of Urban Malaria Scheme in a District of Central Gujarat, India: An Evaluation Study

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Abstract:

Improving the efficiency of the Malaria control program can help combat malaria in urban areas, which still remains a major public health problem in India, affecting all spheres of human life. Assessment of the overall functioning of Urban Malaria Scheme run by Municipal Corporation in a district of Central Gujarat, India, was carried out for over 8 months using a semi-structured instrument by observation, inspection, record review of blood smear examination and target examination rates and interviews of laboratory technicians (LT) and pharmacists. Two slide-positive individuals from each clinic and one community leader from each ward was interviewed regarding the functioning of malaria clinics. Though manpower was adequate at the 13 corporation dispensaries observed, there was lack of active surveillance in the urban areas. The basic infrastructure facilities were inadequate in half of the dispensaries and facilities for Blood Slide Collection and staining were found to be very poor. Radical treatment (RT) was found to be inadequate and unsupervised. Half of the community leaders were unaware about the availability of diagnostic facility for malaria at these dispensaries and had inadequate information about availability of RT. Recommendations made: Vacant posts of LT need to be filled up at the earliest; the laboratory dispensaries to be equipped with adequate space, basic infrastructure facilities, adequate logistics and supplies for Blood Slide Examination (BSE) need to be looked into. Attention needs to be paid to follow the active surveillance activities in cities, following monthly targets, distributing new malaria treatment guidelines and ensuring adequate RT.

Biography:

Shobha Misra, is serving as Professor & Head, Community Medicine, at PDU Govt. Medical College Rajkot, India. Bagged Best Paper awards, IAPSM Bouquets of Honors, PEARL award for excellence in medical education and FAIMER-fellowship from Philadelphia. Completed courses in Biostatistics, Clinical Investigation, Gender and Health, Human Resource Management, Naturopathy and Yoga, Hospital Administration and



Advanced courses in Medical Education. Guided couple of theses, has over 34 publications, 20 presentations in International, National & State Conferences, led 10 research projects and a state level trainer. Co-Ordinator of Medical Education Unit and Curriculum Committee. And has been serving as an editorial board member of repute.

Recent Publications:

1. Criteria for Causality, Volume 3 Issue 2 July- December, healthlin, 2012.
2. Sociodemographic profile of the attendees of voluntary counseling and testing center of a tertiary care hospital, Indian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, Vol. 30, Iss. 2, (Jul 2009): 123-124.
3. Reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS prevention related training at a hospital and medical college, Gujarat: A feedback from participants, Indian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, Vol. 30, Iss. 2, (Jul 2009): 122-123.
4. National framework for malaria elimination in India (2016-2030) (2016) In: Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India.

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